

# SLINGSHOT

Issue #92  
Harvest 2006

Free



# SLINGSHOT

## ON SOLIDARITY AND PRISONS

words from  
Rob Los Ricos

Rob Los Ricos was recently released from prison after serving a seven year sentence for throwing a rock at a cop during a protest in Eugene OR. on June 18, 1999, six months before the WTO protests in Seattle. He is an anarchist writer and reviewer who has been published in Anarchy: a Journal of Desire Armed and the Earth First! Journal among others. Below are excerpts of a speech he gave at the Long Haul Infoshop on September 20, 2006.

### Don't Piss in Water

Prison was kind of a weird experience. I don't know if anyone here is familiar with the Green Anarchist perspective, but I've been that way pretty much my whole life. ...My anarchist ideas were more inspired by Native American social structures than...by anything I've read by anarchist writers. I didn't start reading any anarchist literature until sometime in the mid eighties. I knew I was an anarchist, basically in my heart, because I'd read this book about the Comanche Indians where the anthropologist or sociologist who'd written it went out of his way to drive home the fact that

By PB Floyd

States in general — and the United States government in particular — have always abused and tortured those they have held prisoner. This is a reality that is easily lost in the current debate over the Bush Administration's effort to redefine the Geneva Convention and amend the War Crimes Act to permit torture and to protect CIA agents from criminal prosecution for torturing alleged terrorists suspects as part of the post-9/11 war on terror.

The US, directly or through puppet armies, has consistently and systematically used torture and mistreatment of prisoners during all of its wars and in numerous counter-insurgency campaigns around the world. The US has actively supported right-wing allies in their use of torture. The School of the Americas (now Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) in Georgia was created to train military officials from other countries to torture and kill political opponents of US foreign and economic policy.

the past when ugly details leaked out, the government didn't celebrate. Government officials would either deny the allegations or blame the torture and mistreatment on "a few bad apples."

Bush, to the contrary, doesn't want to deny that he has used what he calls "tough interrogation methods." He's proud to publicly

alleged al Qaeda members jailed at secret CIA prisons on military bases. They included:

1. The Attention Grab: The interrogator forcefully grabs the shirt front of the prisoner and shakes him.

2. Attention Slap: An open-handed slap aimed at causing pain and triggering fear.

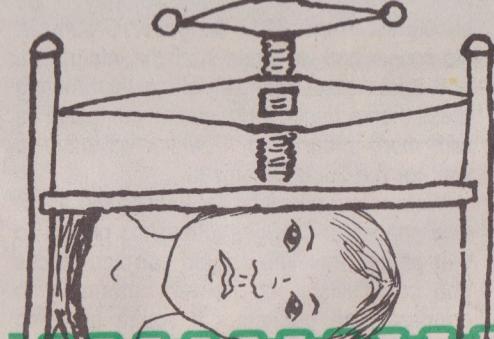
3. The Belly Slap: A hard open-handed slap to the stomach. The aim is to cause pain, but not internal injury. Doctors consulted advised against using a punch, which could cause lasting internal damage.

4. Long Time Standing: This technique is described as among the most effective. Prisoners are forced to stand, handcuffed and with their feet shackled to an eye bolt in the floor for more than 40 hours. Exhaustion and sleep deprivation are effective in yielding confessions.

5. The Cold Cell: The prisoner is left to stand naked in a cell kept near 50 degrees. Throughout the time in the cell the prisoner is doused with cold water.

6. Water Boarding: The prisoner is bound to

## US REGIME INSISTS ON TORTURE HOCUS POCUS — THERE GOES HABEAS CORPUS!



advocate these methods and this rhetorical shift feels scary.

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this was an anarchist society. [It was] not one that had anarchism as its core principle, but in practice...it was anarchist. He just brought that up over and over again throughout the book. This guy [the author] was not an anarchist but he was fascinated by the fact that there was this functioning, thriving society completely anarchistic...

So that was where I got, first of all, a lot of respect for the way that Native American people lived. The Comanches [were] a nomadic [horse herding] tribe in the high plains near the area where I grew up, and I had a tremendous amount of respect for them as a people and the way that they were able to resist assimilation and conquest for over four hundred years. Once they got themselves some horses, they were hard to track down and even harder to beat militarily. That was basically where my anarchism came from...When I started reading anarchist stuff at first I was not too thrilled about it—so much division

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## FOCUS FOCUS — THERE GOES HABEAS CORPUS!

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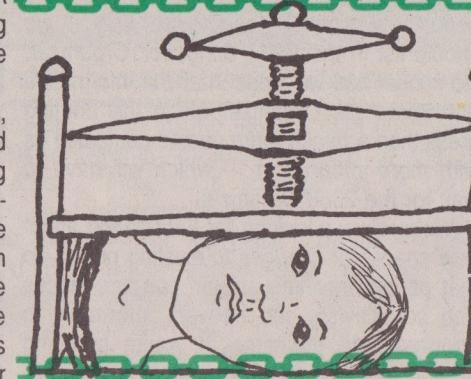
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6. Water Boarding: The prisoner is bound to an inclined board, feet raised and head slightly below the feet. Cellophane is wrapped over the prisoner's face and water is poured over him. Unavoidably, the gag reflex kicks in and a terrifying fear of drowning leads to almost instant pleas to bring the treatment to a halt.

These were official policy — not mistakes

Continued on page 12



advocate these methods and this rhetorical shift feels scary.

Although Bush denies that these methods amount to torture, most people would call them torture. The Bush administration got its lawyers, lead by now-University of California Berkeley law professor John Yoo, to define torture very narrowly to include only: "serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

CIA sources told ABC News that six "Enhanced Interrogation Techniques" were approved in 2002 and used on at least a dozen

## UPRISING RENDERS FRAUDULENT GOVERNMENT IMPOTENT

### Oaxacan Teachers' Strike Develops into Statewide Resistance

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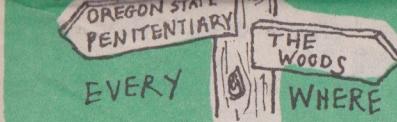
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By Rochelle

Oaxaca City, Mexico, September 17—Graffiti calling for the ousting of the Governor of the



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[In Oregon, before going to prison]...after living my entire life just trying to get by, I was finally falling in with a group of people. We were living more according to our beliefs about not having a job or income or paying the bills month by month but more living through scavenging and squatting in the forest on some land where we had permission to be. Basically having very little contact with society in general. That was part of the problem that later arose in Eugene because we were unused to being around policemen or being in situations where I had to watch myself. So, I was totally unprepared. Prison was really bad because I wasn't used to being indoors. I was living outdoors either on the beaches in Hawaii or the forests of southern Oregon for 3-4 years before going to prison, and I was actually kind of proud of the fact that I had to be

• • • • • **Continued on page 6** • • •

US jails.

What is very different about Bush is that ordinarily, governments try to deny or hide their torture and abuse of prisoners. Modern governments tout their civil rights laws protecting citizens from mistreatment to legitimize the government. Most average Americans don't immediately think of the USA as a purveyor of torture and abuse because in

fact, the Bush administration got its lawyers, lead by now-University of California Berkeley law professor John Yoo, to define torture very narrowly to include only: "serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

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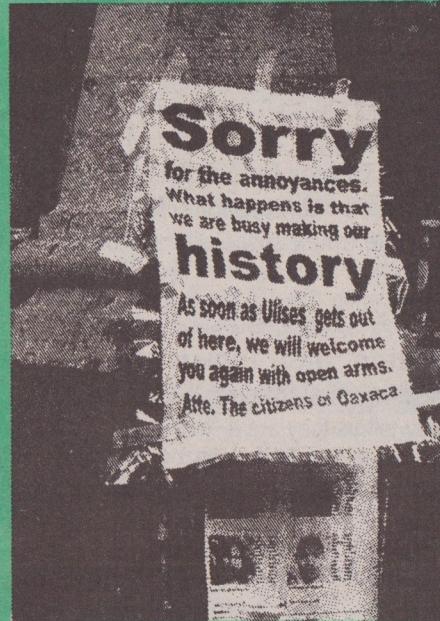
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## UPRISING RENDERS FRAUDULENT GOVERNMENT IMPOTENT

### Oaxacan Teachers' Strike Develops into Statewide Resistance

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Oaxaca City, Mexico, September 17—Graffiti calling for the ousting of the Governor of the state covers almost every blank wall as I wander through the historic district of Oaxaca City. The Zócalo, or main square, and the 50 blocks that surround it have become the home of the statewide teachers strike since the end of May. Sliding through makeshift blockades of metal sheeting and barbed wire, large pieces of concrete and in some cases reclaimed government cars and buses, I enter the encampment. On either side of the street, multicolored tarps cover blankets and cardboard used at night to sleep on by the thousands involved in the struggle. In the center square a community kitchen gathers donations and prepares large pots of beans and rice. A clinic has been set up by supportive medical workers to serve those who have left their villages and are living in the encampments. Many teachers embroider, read the latest movement communiqué, and gather in circles to hold meetings. Banners from unions and municipalities from all over the state supporting this popular struggle hang



between trees and light posts. Stencils depicting Mexico's revolutionary heroes, calling for the people to rise up and demanding the release of political prisoners are everywhere. All of the amazing art of resistance reminds me of the anti-WTO actions in Seattle. This encampment in the main square marks where

the movement began last May. It has since expanded, and encampments can now be found throughout the city. They now surround all government buildings and protect the four radio stations and the transmitters that have been taken over by the movement. These four channels air meeting and march announcements, discussions, alerts, and calls for backup at the scenes of government repression. This is just within Oaxaca City. At least 200 villages in the state have joined in and reclaimed their town halls.

#### How the Movement Began

Seventy percent of the 3.5 million people who live in the state of Oaxaca are indigenous. Over half live in abject poverty, 35 percent do not have piped water in their homes. You can't spend a day in Oaxaca City without seeing poor native women with barefoot children in tow who have come from the surrounding villages to try and make money selling gum and cigarettes. Many of the rural communities are empty of men who have fled to the US to try and make money filling the low pay, harsh labor jobs the US economy depends on. The Mexican constitution demands that all children have the same access to education. Yet today in

**Continued on page 14**

# SLINGSHOT

Slingshot is an independent, radical, quarterly newspaper published in Berkeley since 1988.

Often when working on the paper we are faced with the dilemma of deciding what is news and will be relevant for the three months an issue is on the streets after we print it. For example, we published a long article about Oaxaca even though the situation there could change dramatically the day after the paper comes off the press, because the events there are inspiring and underreported in mainstream news. We hope the Oaxaca phenomenon will spread throughout Mexico and inspire people in the US, including the immigrants' rights movement.

On the other side of the coin are important but complex, detailed articles like the update of the Green Scare arrests. The gauntlet of information can leave those "not in the know" feeling a little lost. Because it is a frequent feature in our paper (like the Iraq debacle or People's Park) readers may conclude there is nothing new to say. But that is the nature of prolonged struggles as opposed to sensational news. The recent Green Scare coverage in *Rolling Stone* was good at describing characters, but then framed them as idiots. By contrast, if you look at the beautifully written obituaries in this issue, we hope you'll feel the real and funky people who inhabit our world of resistance.

We apologize for not having a Spanish page in this issue. Disculpenos por la ausencia de la pagina en español. En el futuro, necesitaremos articulos en español.

As usual, we had a hell of a time getting people to send us articles and art. Ironically, our most responsive contributor-base is our prisoner readership. We would love to have first person narratives and radical social/political analyses. We are still working on better ways to accept unsolicited contributions. All too often, people send us unformed outlines posing as articles or just rants.

We also need more black and white art for

# Yo! Wrote A Letter To SLINGSHOT

## How could you suggest eating snails?

Dear Slingshot:

How ironic that in a newspaper with a front page story decrying the "commodification and domination of the planet", a newspaper which pleads for support for several people who have put their futures on the line to save animals from human domination and commodification, the other prominent front page article urges us to eat snails (issue #91).

Not only is it completely disgusting, but the idea that we should consume anything that gets in our way is completely out of tune with the rest of the newspaper. In addition, boiling any animal alive is about the meanest thing I can

think of.

I hope never to read similar articles in your publication, and please, no more articles by "Compost".

## Supermarket food — marinated in oil

Dear Slingshot,

Just wanted to say I couldn't agree more with the Savory Snails article (Issue #91). I definitely feel more secure knowing that I have a fine source of protein and sustenance

slithering around in my back yard. It had never occurred to me to eat the little buggers who plague my garden.

It may seem rather cruel to boil the snails alive after their last meal of cornmeal. But the cost of transporting food to supermarkets shelves via trucks does not come without a price either. War is waged to keep oil prices low so that people can continue to enjoy food that is not locally produced; the environment is also adversely affected by food transport. People need to think more about where their food comes from and what was involved in getting it to their plate.

I'm not saying that from here on out I'll shun the supermarket and subsist on snails. Just that when the oil does run out and when grocery store shelves are bare, at least I'll have something to fall back on, even if it is a little slimy.

Sincerely, Morningglory Oatstraw

# travelers' INFOSHOP



Compiled by PB Floyd

People all over the world wrote in to tell us about new infoshops and radical spaces we should list in the 2007 *Slingshot Organizer*. No sooner had we typed in all the information and taken the Organizer off to the printing press than a bunch more people contacted us with more information — which will have to wait for the 2008 Organizer.

We're always looking for information about new spaces or changes to existing places so that people traveling around can find places and so activists can network informally to cooperate on projects. If you're traveling around and find mistakes in info from us or find out about more places we can list, please let us know. We're trying to post information

"free box," as well as serving as a drug/alcohol-free hangout spot. They are open 4 pm - 7 pm, Wed-Thurs, 1-7 Sundays, and are available to be booked for meetings/events/etc. on Fridays and Saturdays. 4420 Washington Ave. Houston, TX 77007.

### Media Island International Olympia WA

They host Food Not Bombs, Indy Media, have meetings space, computer access, a library and movies. 816 Adams St. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 360-352-8526.

### Bikehouse - Salt Lake City, UT

A bike library open to travelers and radicals. 519 E. 600 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84102.

People traveling around sent us lots of new information about places to stay and things to do.

### Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

An infoshop (?) at Ben-Yehuda 7, West Jerusalem, Israel, [www.icahd.org/eng/](http://www.icahd.org/eng/)  
**Kafé44 - Stockholm, Sweden**

An infoshop and coffeehouse. Tjarhovsgatan 44, Metro; T-Medborgarplatsen, Stockholm, Sweden, +46-8-6445312 [info@kafé44.com](mailto:info@kafé44.com)

### Anchor Archive Zine Library - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

They are a year-old zine library. Check 'em out: 5684 Roberts St. Halifax, NS. B3K 1J6 Canada. 902-446-1788.

### Changes / mistakes in 2006 organizer

- The Urbana-Champaign IMC is now at 202 South Broadway, Suite 100 Urbana, IL 61801,

but complex, detailed articles like the update of the Green Scare arrests. The gauntlet of information can leave those "not in the know" feeling a little lost. Because it is a frequent feature in our paper (like the Iraq debacle or People's Park) readers may conclude there is nothing new to say. But that is the nature of prolonged struggles as opposed to sensational news. The recent Green Scare coverage in *Rolling Stone* was good at describing characters, but then framed them as idiots. By contrast, if you look at the beautifully written obituaries in this issue, we hope you'll feel the real and funky people who inhabit our world of resistance.

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We also need more black and white art for covers and article graphics. We'll do more original posters if you send them, and we thought that "First the dishes, Then the revolution" would be a great slogan for the next one we feature.

*Slingshot* is always looking for new writers, artists, editors, photographers, translators, distributors and independent thinkers to help us make this paper. If you send something written, please be open to working with the editorial collective.

Editorial decisions are made by the *Slingshot* collective, but not all the articles reflect the opinions of all collective members. We welcome debate, constructive criticism and discussion.

Thanks to all who worked on this: Artnoise, B (for lunch *only*), Eggplant, Jessica, Hefty Lefty, Kathryn, Maneli, Melinda, Molly, PB.

#### **Slingshot New Volunteer Meeting**

Volunteers interested in getting involved with *Slingshot* can come to the new volunteer meeting on Sunday, November 26 at 4 p.m. at the Long Haul in Berkeley (see below).

#### **Article Deadline and Next Issue Date**

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# **INFOSHOP**

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#### **Jack Pine collective - Minneapolis, MN**

A radical community center / free space / youth hangout. 2815 E. Lake St. Minneapolis, MN 55406, 612-729-2837, [www.thejackpine.org](http://www.thejackpine.org).

#### **Rocktown Infoshop & Freespace - Harrisonburg, VA**

A new radical space, they feature an infoshop with books, CDs, zines, etc., a radical library



and a free store. Open 1 pm - 4 pm Sun-Tues & Thursday and Fri-Sat. 12-6. 85 E. Elizabeth St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802 (540)437-0577.

#### **Castle Olympus - Columbia, SC**

It is a new collective space with a free library

"free box," as well as serving as a drug/alcohol-free hangout spot. They are open 4 pm - 7 pm, Wed-Thurs, 1-7 Sundays, and are available to be booked for meetings/events/etc. on Fridays and Saturdays. 4420 Washington Ave. Houston, TX 77007.

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*People traveling around sent us lots of new international contacts - we don't always have a lot of information about what they are precisely. Hopefully someone will visit these places and give us info about what they are.*

#### **Biblioteca Social Reconstruir - Mexico City**

Someone wrote in to say they're not gone - they just moving. They're at Dolores #16 Despacho 401 near the Bella Artes metro station. Not sure of the postal code or phone.

#### **Biblioteca Social Praxedis G. Guerrero**

A cool new space. Open Wednesdays and Fridays 4-8 pm at Gobernador Curiel 2133, colonia ferrocarril, Guadalajara, Jalisco. [cooperativa\\_regeneracion@yahoo.com](mailto:cooperativa_regeneracion@yahoo.com).

#### **Ernst Kirchweier Haus - Vienna, Austria**

An awesome autonomous center/squat with an infoshop. Wielandgasse 2-4/A-1100 Wien/Austria, [www.med-user.net/infomaden](http://www.med-user.net/infomaden)

#### **Infoshoppe kasama - Zurich Switzerland**

An infoshop (?) at militarstrasse 87a Zurich Switzerland

*Centre internationale de recherches*

#### **Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions**

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- Third space in Norman, OK has a new phone #: 405-307-8379.

- Mat Hatters Infoshop in Danbury, CT has closed.

- Behind the Rocks Infoshop in Hartford, CT closed.

- Burning River Infoshop in Cleveland wrote in to say they are, in fact, gone but folks can contact the following addresses in Cleveland: Cleveland Anarchist Black Cross, PO Box 602543, Cleveland, OH, 44102 or FNB at [veggies@clevelandfoodnotbombs.org](mailto:veggies@clevelandfoodnotbombs.org). A new infoshop is scheduled to open in January, 2006.

- Black Star Books in New Zealand has new information: their new address is Corso Building, 111 Moray Place, Dunedin, New Zealand. Their postal address remains the same (p.o. Box 812 Dunedin, New Zealand). Their contact email address is now [info@blackstar.nihil.nz](mailto:info@blackstar.nihil.nz) and website [www.blackstar@nihil.net.nz](http://www.blackstar@nihil.net.nz)

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- We printed the wrong phone # and postal code for Haymarket Books and Cafe in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The correct info is

thought that "First the dishes, Then the revolution" would be a great slogan for the next one we feature.

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### **Slingshot Newspaper**

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slingshot@tao.ca • www.slingshot.tao.ca

## **Circulation Information**

*Slingshot* is free in the Bay Area and is available at Long Haul and Bound Together Books (SF), plus lots of other places. Contact us or come by if you want to distribute *Slingshot* for free in the Bay Area.

Subscriptions to *Slingshot* are free to prisoners, low income and anyone in the USA who has a *Slingshot* organizer, or cost \$1 per issue. International is \$2.50 per issue. Back issues are also available for the cost of postage. **National free distribution program:** Outside of the Bay Area, we'll mail a stack of free copies of *Slingshot* to distributors, infoshops, bookstores and random friendly individuals for FREE in the US if they give 'em out for free.

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It is a new collective space with a free library and a show space. They host workshops and punk rock potluck picnics. 119 South Parker St. Columbia, SC 29201, 843-618-4759.

### **Belfry Center for Social and Cultural Activities - Minneapolis, MN**

They are a new space with a book and zine library host the Bat Annex Free School. 3753 Bloomington Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407, 612-724-4293, [belfrycenter.org](http://belfrycenter.org).

### **Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center - Kalamazoo, MI**

They tell us they are a "hub of youth activism and organizing in Kalamazoo, mostly serving Western Michigan University students." 2101 Wilbur Kalamazoo, MI 49006 (269) 344-4076 [Organize@KzooPeaceCenter.org](mailto:Organize@KzooPeaceCenter.org)

### **Mendocino Coast Environmental Ctr.**

I was biking down the coast and happened upon this place in the very tourist-y city of Mendocino. The volunteer at the desk didn't know the street address but it's right on the main street. PO Box 1125, Mendocino, CA 95460, 707 937-1035.

### **Sedition Collective - Houston, TX**

They have a lending library, a small retail section, free broadband internet/wi-fi and a

precisely. Hopefully someone will visit these places and give us info about what they are.

### **Biblioteca Social Reconstruir - Mexico City**

Someone wrote in to say they're not gone - they just moving. They're at Dolores #16 Despacho 401 near the Bella Artes metro station. Not sure of the postal code or phone.

### **Biblioteca Social Praxedis G. Guerrero**

A cool new space. Open Wednesdays and Fridays 4-8 pm at Gobernador Curiel 2133, colonia ferrocarril, Guadalajara, Jalisco. [cooperativa\\_regeneracion@yahoo.com](mailto:cooperativa_regeneracion@yahoo.com).

### **Ernst Kirchweger Haus - Vienna, Austria**

An awesome autonomous center/squat with an infoshop. Wielandgasse 2-4/A-1100 Wien/Austria, [www.med-user.net/informaden](http://www.med-user.net/informaden)

### **Infoshoppe kasama - Zurich Switzerland**

An infoshop (?) at militarstrasse 87a Zurich Switzerland

### **Centre internationale de recherches sur l'Anarchism - Switzerland**

An infoshop (?) at Beaumont 24 Lausanne 1012 Switz.

### **Infoladen Rabia - Switzerland**

An infoshop (?) at Bachtelstr. 70 Winterthur 8400 Switz.

### **KTS - Freiburg, Germany**

An infoshop (?) at Baslerstr. 103 79100 Freiburg Germany

### **Krtkova Kolona - Czech Republic**

An infoshop and cafe that has been open since 2001. Socharска 6, 170 00 Praha 7 Tel: +420 604 247 218.

### **Alternative Information Center - West Bank; Palestine**

An infoshop (?) at Building 111 Main Street - Beit Sahour, occupied Palestine - 00972-2-2775444

### **Alternative Information Center - Israel**

An infoshop at Queen Shlomzion Street 4 (2nd floor) - West Jerusalem PO Box 31417, Israel - 00972-2-6241159, [alternativenews.org](http://alternativenews.org)

### **Daila - Israel**

An infoshop (?) at Queen Shlomzion 4, West Jerusalem, Israel, [www.dailazoo.net](http://www.dailazoo.net)

405-307-8379.

• Mat Hatters Infoshop in Danbury, CT has closed.

• Behind the Rocks Infoshop in Hartford, CT closed.

• Burning River Infoshop in Cleveland wrote in to say they are, in fact, gone but folks can contact the following addresses in Cleveland: Cleveland Anarchist Black Cross, PO Box 602543, Cleveland, OH, 44102 or FNB at [veggies@clevelandfoodnotbombs.org](mailto:veggies@clevelandfoodnotbombs.org). A new infoshop is scheduled to open in January, 2006.

• Black Star Books in New Zealand has new information: their new address is Corso Building, 111 Moray Place, Dunedin, New Zealand. Their postal address remains the same (p.o. Box 812 Dunedin, New Zealand). Their contact email address is now [info@blackstar.nihil.nz](mailto:info@blackstar.nihil.nz) and website [www.blackstar.nihil.net.nz](http://www.blackstar.nihil.net.nz)

### **Changes / mistakes in 2007 organizer**

• We printed the wrong phone # and postal code for Haymarket Books and Cafe in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The correct info is



T2G 2M8, 403-234-0260. The street address published is correct.

• The address for Utopia Infoshop in Prague has changed to Karlova 25, Praha 1, Czech Republic. Note: someone from the Czech Republic wrote to say they had "changed their politics" and shouldn't be listed anymore - other communications from Europe didn't agree.

• Someone wrote to say that the La Comuna Libertaria in Guadalajara is not really operational anymore.

• Better than Television in Charlottesville, VA does not appear to exist anymore - we have had mail returned from them and their phone number is disconnected.

# EMERGING FROM IRAQ WAR DEPRESSION

By PB Floyd

As the situation in Iraq has deteriorated into virtual civil war over the past several months — with 140,000 US troops presiding impotently over the carnage — it is more clear than ever that the US has lost in Iraq (no matter how one may define the vague US mission there) and that it is only a matter of time before US troops pack-up and head home defeated. After three and a half years and over 2,700 American military deaths, the clumsy US occupation has brought little reconstruction or political reconciliation. Instead, the situation on all levels — economically, in terms of health and education, from a human rights perspective, and with respect to public safety — is worse than it has ever been in Iraq's history. There is still not sufficient electricity, water, employment, medicine in the hospitals, etc.

Sectarian groups and militias on all sides are operating death squads and torture chambers that make even Saddam Hussein's gross human rights violations look at least more orderly if not more tame by comparison. According to figures from the Iraqi Health Ministry and the Baghdad morgue collected by the United Nations, 3,009 civilians were killed in sectarian and insurgent violence in August, 3,590 in July, 3,149 in June, 2,669 in May, 2,284 in April, 2,378 in March, 2,165 in February, and 1,778 in January — a total of at least 21,022 so far for 2006. And those are the ones whose bodies have been located and who have been counted — many people have simply disappeared. Wounded civilians and military members — often permanently disabled — total several times the number killed.

The catastrophe in Iraq is a continuing waste of lives and money on all sides. Over \$316 billion has been spent by the US alone on Iraq to date according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office — for what? The US occupation — rather than containing

George W. Bush  
is proud to present

## War in the Middle East v 2.0

### FOR DUMMIES

A Reference  
for the  
Rest of us!

From the man who brought you

"I think we agree, the past is over"

"It's clearly a budget, it's got a lot of numbers in it"  
and not forgetting

"More and more of our imports are coming from overseas"



Including  
the new  
Shock & Awe  
Techniques

the sectarian violence and insurgency — has only fueled these trends. It is becoming increasingly clear that healing and peace in Iraq are impossible with US troops there. Peace and stability in Iraq may be impossible for years given the mess that the US occupation has made of Iraqi society. The only silver lining may be that Bush is somewhat less likely to invade Iran or other countries in his remaining two years given the way the US military is tied down in Iraq.

As the situation in Iraq gets worse month after month and the bodies pile ever higher, the key question is whether there is any way to stop the occupation while Bush remains in power. At the outset of the war, Bush totally ignored huge international and some domestic opposition to the war. His administration has consistently been in its own world, unconcerned

with facts that run contrary to their ideological positions. Early opponents of the war became dispirited as it became apparent that Bush would simply ignore our demands to stop the slaughter. Now, with a majority of the public turning against the war, Bush still seems unmoved and the situation seems particularly hopeless and depressing.

It is, however, a mistake to conclude that those of us living in the US should rest in our armchairs just because Bush has been able to ignore us so far. Social cracks are developing that are constraining Bush's options and bringing closer the day when continuing the occupation as it has been will simply become impossible. To the extent more and more people refuse to accept the war and break the silence and depression surrounding the war disaster — in lots of small and large ways —

the popular illusion that the Iraq quagmire is inevitable will further erode.

Increasing numbers of US troops are refusing to go along with the war. US generals just announced that they will have to maintain or even increase current troop levels for another year. It is getting harder and harder to find troops to send to Iraq without breaking the US military. Some military officials are even discussing offering citizenship to foreign nationals if they'll go to Iraq to fight for the US first. Such a step is not symptomatic of a population united behind the war. Rather, it represents desperation on the part of government officials trying to maintain an unwinnable occupation that has lost public support.

Most of us aren't soldiers, but we can publicly and strongly support military people who refuse to go or youth who refuse to join the military in the first place. There are all kinds of small ways to help advance a ground swell of opposition to the occupation: printing, distributing and wearing "stop the occupation" shirts, hanging up lawn signs, writing letters to the editor, bringing Iraq into conversation, turning out for anti-war marches and protests, etc. The only hope of ending the occupation sooner rather than later is shaking off our disempowerment and depression and refusing to let the occupation go on in silence.

While biking down the Oregon/California coast this summer, I rode into the tiny fog shrouded town of Albion. At the tiny market there, someone had set up a trailer filled with small wood crosses — one for each soldier killed in Iraq. Now is not the time to forget Iraq and hope it will go away. The occupation is lingering on because the majority of Americans who oppose it haven't translated their private opposition to public resistance. This time, the silent majority are those against the occupation. It's time to end our silence.

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# PEOPLE'S PARK. still there— go use it.

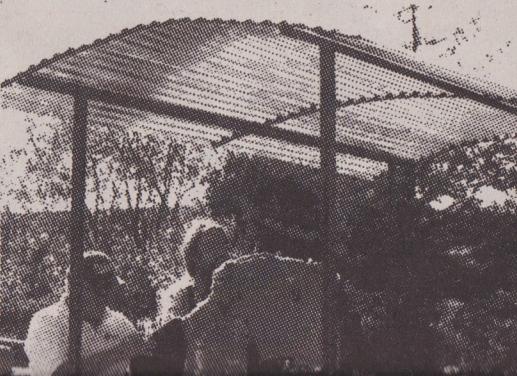
By Cynthia Johnson

People's Park in Berkeley, California — located between Haste Street and Dwight Way above Telegraph Avenue. It's still there. And it's still a trouble-maker embodying our dreams, society's problems and the University's attempt to control it. People's Park is one of the few places in this country with a claim to being Common Land. Though the University of California, Berkeley (UC) holds a paper title to the land that they obtained by abusing eminent domain and calling in police and the national guard to quell protests 38 years ago, they really don't control this land. Their attempt to build volleyball courts and convert the Park into a student sports playground in the early 1990's failed. The resistance that sprang forth was spirited and powerful. The coalition of people who resisted the volleyball court birthed a whole community that includes East Bay Food Not Bombs (FNB), CopWatch and numerous other groups. The Park

park users decide what should be done and then do it themselves — that People's Park embodies.

The Community Advisory Board is hand selected by the University to "advise" them. There is nothing democratic about the process. Currently the board includes three conservative neighbors from the Willard Neighborhood Association (WNA) which sued and caused the demise of UC's coolest student co-op, Le Chateau. Now these WNA board members are after the Park. One is challenging incumbent city council member Kriss Worthington who has consistently been supportive of People's Park and user and community development of it. George Beier, Kriss's challenger, made his quick fortune selling software to corporate banks and now has plenty of time to

pile on the ground in front of the dumpsters. Even this method provides clothes for an amazing amount of people. The University is interested in removing services to make the Park less attractive to "those people" — homeless people, street punks, poor people and freaks. It has placed an outspoken UC Berkeley Architect professor on the advisory board



conversation, or playing frisbee. It also remains a refuge for the homeless and mentally ill. It is a surprisingly healing place, where people who may not be accepted in most realms of society can find peace, support and community. Most of this is provided by the community itself with no taxpayer services.

Truly the fate of People's Park lies with you. It can only be a common land of sharing, a place cared for and improved through user-development and a joyful testament to the thousands of people who have in some way contributed to this dream, if you carry it on. To complain about the Park to some authority totally misses the point. Be the Park you want to see. If you want it to be a comfortable place to study or picnic, grab a few friends and go there. If you'd like to go to more music shows, organize one. If you want it cleaner, pick it up. The Park was born by people deciding to cooperatively create beauty out of an injustice

# PEOPLE'S PARK: still there— go use it.

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First, it is good to recognize its very existence as success. The Park has resisted plans to build dorms, sports courts and parking lots. Currently the University says that it wants to keep it as a park. That's good. Now there is a dynamic tension about what kind of park that is. One of the looming issues is about "homeless services" in the Park — FNB and numerous other groups serve free food at the park and many groups and individuals bring clothing and other items to share with others at the park.

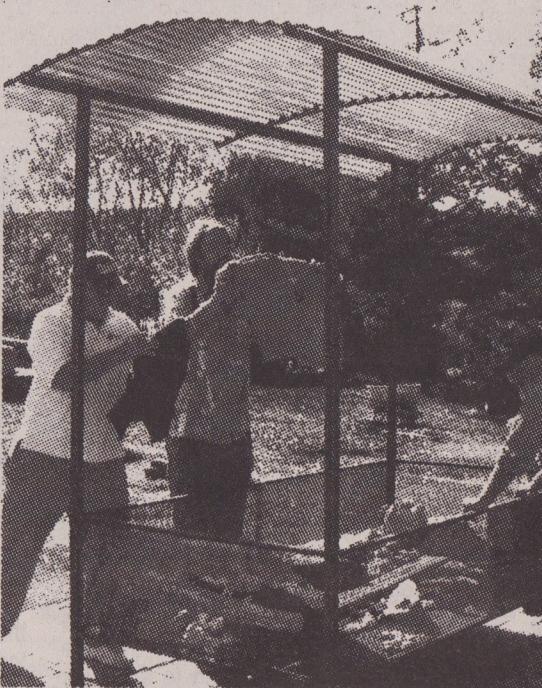
Also the new People's Park Community Advisory Board has initiated a "comprehensive planning process" for which the University agreed to provide \$100,000 for the hiring of expert professional planners, or at least those professionals who plan how to plan. This is completely against the nature of the Park and the concept of User Development — wherein

park users decide what should be done and then do it themselves — that People's Park embodies.

The Community Advisory Board is hand selected by the University to "advise" them. There is nothing democratic about the process. Currently the board includes three conservative neighbors from the Willard Neighborhood Association (WNA) which sued and caused the demise of UC's coolest student co-op, Le Chateau. Now these WNA board members are after the Park. One is challenging incumbent city council member Kriss Worthington who has consistently been supportive of People's Park and user and community development of it. George Beier, Kriss's challenger, made his quick fortune selling software to corporate banks and now has plenty of time to work on raising his property value. He talks sweet but anything said to him goes in one ear and out the other. His plan is to make People's Park more of a lawn (like Willard Park), get the University to redesign it, install spy cameras and build a cafe on the valuable open space. If any cafe goes into People's Park it would have to serve FREE food!

Besides threatening to "redesign" the Park, the challenge to "social services" is in full force. The most obvious attack is the repeated removal of the Free Clothing Box by the University. People's Park has always been a place where people can share and help others. The Freebox stood for many years to assist in our community's exchange of used clothes until it was arsons. UC police have prevented numerous attempts by volunteers to rebuild the box. People still bring free clothes to the park only now, the clothes are distributed in a

pile on the ground in front of the dumpsters. Even this method provides clothes for an amazing amount of people. The University is interested in removing services to make the Park less attractive to "those people" — homeless people, street punks, poor people and freaks. It has placed an outspoken UC Berkeley Architect professor on the advisory board



This new metal freebox was destroyed by police 3 days after volunteers built it at the park

who wants to remove the serving of free food and other services.

The Park has a fair amount of resiliency to official planners and changing anything successfully will require cooperation with the people who use the Park. In the meantime the Park has been really nice this year. Despite claims that the Park is under-used there are actually lots of people in it: playing chess and basketball, sleeping, sharing food and

conversation, or playing frisbee. It also remains a refuge for the homeless and mentally ill. It is a surprisingly healing place, where people who may not be accepted in most realms of society can find peace, support and community. Most of this is provided by the community itself with no taxpayer services.

Truly the fate of People's Park lies with you. It can only be a common land of sharing, a place cared for and improved through user-development and a joyful testament to the thousands of people who have in some way contributed to this dream, if you carry it on. To complain about the Park to some authority totally misses the point. Be the Park you want to see. If you want it to be a comfortable place to study or picnic, grab a few friends and go there. If you'd like to go to more music shows, organize one. If you want it cleaner, pick it up. The Park was born by people deciding to cooperatively create beauty out of an injustice and an eyesore in their neighborhood. It is much too rare in this country that we have both the opportunity and obligation to participate in such creative action.

I have hope. There are beautiful young people serving lunch, there are student groups volunteering to fix the free speech stage, there are homeless people who are gardening, there is kindness and sharing among society's forgotten, there is basketball, chess and puzzles, there are many churches and groups who bring food to share, there is a generous flow of donated clothes, there are tomatoes and birds and lots of different people who would not meet if not for this special park. No, it's not paradise, there are also still fights and littering and people so broken it's tearful. But if you brave it, if you claim People's Park as yours, as it is, you just may feel its embrace, a gift from someone before, that manifests as a sweet apple, new shoes, sunlight on a flower or that nugget of truth from a stranger's lips. Go there.



# TRANSITIONS in Radical Feminist

## CAMP TRANS AND MICHIGAN WOMYNS MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE CHANGES

This August, Camp Trans and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival announced changes in a 14-year struggle over the explicit exclusion of transgender womyn from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) is the largest and longest-running women's separatist music festival in the world, started in 1976 in rural Michigan. MWMF emerged from the radical women's community of the 1970s and encompasses a wide range of women and a wide range of political views. In recent years, MWMF has been criticized for what some see as regressive ideas about gender, self-identification and separatist space.

In 1991, a trans woman was kicked out of the music festival in an event that would become historic. The MWMF created an official policy specifying that the festival is for 'womyn-born-womyn' only, and asking that anyone not identifying as a 'womyn-born-womyn' not attend the events arguing that women who were born and raised as women share a common experience and thus need separate space. Since 1994, Camp Trans has been staging protests and cultural events directly across the road from the entry gate to the MWMF, with the explicit goal of changing this policy. Camp Trans believes that all self-identified women should be welcome at the festival. Camp Trans' tactics have ranged from direct education work with festival attendees, to a national boycott campaign pressuring artists and performers not to play at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Camp Trans has also organized its own festival, the WomenSpace Music Festival, to provide a space for women to come together and have a safe space to express themselves.

# Exciting Prospects For Inclusion

By Sailor J Lewis Wallace

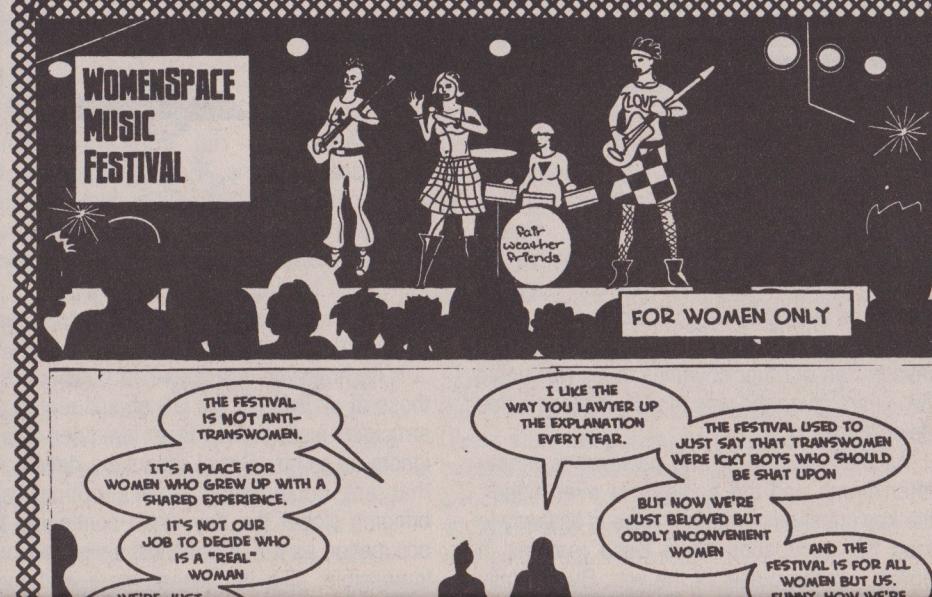
*This was originally composed as a letter to members of my extended transfeminist community to fill them in on the events of Camp Trans/Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) this August. I was at both festivals this year, and this was my eighth year attending either Camp Trans or MWMF. These views do not represent the views of Camp Trans.*

For the first time since official trans exclusion began at the festival in the early nineties, an out transsexual woman purchased a

world. A weight is slowly being lifted and this is a gift to all of us who have invested time and energy into building feminist space for so many years. Trans womyn are womyn, and we hope they will finally be welcomed as such in the coming years at the Festival.

I think it's important not to frame this issue in terms of a Camp Trans victory over the Festival, or an end to the Festival as it has been. This change represents a positive advancement in the ability of different sectors of queer and feminist community to work

fights for survival and justice. Many of us are part of struggle in various sectors of a left-wing progressive or radical movement to change the conditions of our lives and of many people's lives globally. Feminism and a struggle against heterosexism and transphobia are an integral part of building strength in this movement, and unity amongst womyn, trans and queer people and all feminists is about as important as it has ever been. We are living in a politically devastating time, fighting an uphill battle. It is desperately important right now to be fighting racism, transphobia, sexism, classism, and all forms of oppression that divide us within our movements, in order to build stronger unified fronts against the people who truly hate us, and hate all of us. The right wing in this country wants us to be divided, and they love that we fight with each other as much as we do. The divide between Camp Trans and the MWMF has long represented an extremely painful rift experienced by many womyn and trans folk, and the bitterness that is born out of never having a place of calm or a space to be slightly safer from everyday harassment. It is far easier, sadly, to tear each other to shreds than it is to build inclusive, radical safer spaces, even for a week out of the year. The growing ability to build feminist space together and to challenge and overcome transphobic fear within this space is hugely important in a broader political context. This



women's community of the 1970s and encompasses a wide range of women and a wide range of political views. In recent years, MWMF has been criticized for what some see as regressive ideas about gender, self-identification and separatist space.

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This past August, two transgender women bought tickets at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival gates, stated that they were trans women, and were permitted into the festival by the women working at the gate. Camp Trans responded to this event with a press release proclaiming the struggle to be over, and celebrating unity between Camp Trans, and supporters of trans inclusion within the festival. (see the release at: <http://camptans.squarespace.com/latest-news/2006/8/21/camp-trans-press-release.html>) The festival responded with a press release contradicting Camp Trans' message. According to MWMF owner and proprietor Lisa Vogel, "if a transwoman purchased a ticket, it represents nothing more than that woman choosing to disrespect the stated intention of this Festival." Vogel's basis for continued exclusion of trans women is also articulated: "I ask that you respect that woman born woman is a valid and honorable gender identity." (see the release at:

<http://camptans.squarespace.com/latest-news/2006/8/21/camp-trans-press-release.html>)

For the first time since official trans exclusion began at the festival in the early nineties, an out transsexual woman purchased a

ticket and went into the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival without resistance from festival organizers or attendees. Across the street, Camp Trans had its own cultural festival of workshops, musicians, poets, trans and non-trans attendees of all genders, and celebrated its 16th year of protest and culture!

#### Did the trans exclusion policy of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival change? Is trans exclusion over?

I am sure in the year to come that much discussion will ensue within the broader queer and feminist community connected to Camp Trans and the MWMF about the festival's longstanding policy excluding trans people and specifying MWMF as a space for 'womyn-born-womyn' only. Here is what I believe to be the bottom line:

Trans womyn attended the festival this year without harassment, and the policy is no longer being enforced, by Festival organizers or participants. An out transsexual woman also gave a workshop on trans inclusion inside the

strength in this movement, and unity amongst womyn, trans and queer people and all feminists is about as important as it has ever been. We are living in a politically devastating time, fighting an uphill battle. It is desperately important right now to be fighting racism, transphobia, sexism, classism, and all forms of oppression that divide us within our movements, in order to build stronger unified fronts against the people who truly hate us, and hate all of us. The right wing in this country wants us to be divided, and they love that we fight with each other as much as we do. The divide between Camp Trans and the MWMF has long represented an extremely painful rift experienced by many womyn and trans folk, and the bitterness that is born out of never having a place of calm or a space to be slightly safer from everyday harassment. It is far easier, sadly, to tear each other to shreds than it is to build inclusive, radical safer spaces, even for a week out of the year. The growing ability to build feminist space together and to challenge and overcome transphobic fear within this space is hugely important in a broader political context. This doesn't mean that oppressive attitudes within radical feminism are over, but it allows an example of a time when oppressive attitudes challenged and changed. The spaces we've been building for so long exist intact, and we grow stronger every year.

4. Healing matters: Even those who are uncomfortable with the idea of trans womyn at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival must understand that this moment is a positive one, and one of healing. This uncomfortable moment will invariably mean growth. This piece of land and community of people in Western Michigan will support that growth to happen, for all who are involved. After seven years of participating in this fight, and ten years of connection to MWMF, I can say for the first time that I feel an immense amount of trust in Camp Trans and in the Festival. All I want is a space that is larger than a closet to chill in for a week. Gimme a field. Gimme some woods. Give it to me on my beautiful home turf of Michigan. And give it to my friends, who ARE WOMYN, who are feminists, who are part of



ART BY STACEY — [WWW.SHEERCHAOS.ORG](http://www.sheerchaos.org)

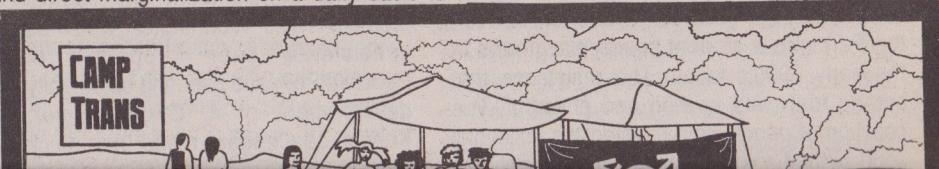
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together. It represents something positive for the future of both camps. It's time to celebrate that together.

#### Okay, so why does this whole thing matter?

1. The festival matters: The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is the largest and longest-standing radical, feminist, womyn's separatist space in the world. Festival leaders have been consciously excluding womyn who identify as trans from their space for about 15 years, leading to a huge and divisive controversy in feminist and queer communities all over the US and some parts of the world.

2. Trans people matter: We are strong, amazing, influential people just looking for a place to be. Trans people negotiate a painful and direct marginalization on a daily basis to



transgender communities. A variety of artists and activists have spoken out in support of trans inclusion in recent years, including the Indigo Girls, Emi Koyama ([www.eminism.org](http://www.eminism.org)) and author Michelle Tea.

This past August, two transgender women bought tickets at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival gates, stated that they were trans women, and were permitted into the festival by the women working at the gate. Camp Trans responded to this event with a press release proclaiming the struggle to be over, and celebrating unity between Camp Trans, and supporters of trans inclusion within the festival. (see the release at: <http://camptrans.squarespace.com/latest-news/2006/8/21/camp-trans-press-release.html>) The festival responded with a press release contradicting Camp Trans' message. According to MWMF owner and proprietor Lisa Vogel, "if a transwoman purchased a ticket, it represents nothing more than that woman choosing to disrespect the stated intention of this Festival." Vogel's basis for continued exclusion of trans women is also articulated: "I ask that you respect that woman born woman is a valid and honorable gender identity." (see the release at: <http://www.intraa.org/story/mwmfpolicyrebuttal>)

It is unclear which of these narratives will end up being more accurate regarding the festival in the coming year but the understanding of gender in radical communities is changing. According to Camp trans organizer Jessica Snodgrass, "this is not about winning. It's about making our communities whole again. The policy divided people against each other who could be fighting on the same side. We want to be part of the healing process."



## ART BY STACEY — WWW.SHEERCHAOS.ORG

ticket and went into the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival without resistance from festival organizers or attendees. Across the street, Camp Trans had its own cultural festival of workshops, musicians, poets, trans and non-trans attendees of all genders, and celebrated its 16th year of protest and culture!

### Did the trans exclusion policy of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival change? Is trans exclusion over?

I am sure in the year to come that much discussion will ensue within the broader queer and feminist community connected to Camp Trans and the MWMF about the festival's longstanding policy excluding trans people and specifying MWMF as a space for 'womyn-born-womyn' only. Here is what I believe to be the bottom line:

Trans womyn attended the festival this year without harassment, and the policy is no longer being enforced, by Festival organizers or participants. An out transsexual woman also gave a workshop on trans inclusion inside the festival for a group of about 60 womyn and the "Yellow Armbands", a group of feminist trans allies at the MWMF, organized within the festival all week for visibility of trans issues and inclusion of trans women. As far as I know, Camp Trans will no longer be explicitly protesting the policy. Trans people and allies will be at both the Festival and Camp Trans next year because the majority of the womyn at Festival are open to the presence of trans folks at festival, open to the fact that the times are a-changin', and open to a deeper dialogue about feminism, transfeminism, oppression and inclusion in womyn's spaces. It won't be easy, but it is happening. After all these years of fighting and debating, the transphobic status quo that once supported excluding transwomyn from womyn's spaces is no longer as powerful. The written policy, the word of Lisa Vogel and the potential vehemence of a few transphobes at the festival, simply do not matter as much as they once did. Transphobia in this womyn's community holds less weight now, and the tides are turning in this small corner of the radical

together. It represents something positive for the future of both camps. It's time to celebrate that together.

### Okay, so why does this whole thing matter?

1. The festival matters: The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is the largest and longest-standing radical, feminist, womyn's separatist space in the world. Festival leaders have been consciously excluding womyn who identify as trans from their space for about 15 years, leading to a huge and divisive controversy in feminist and queer communities all over the US and some parts of the world.

2. Trans people matter: We are strong, amazing, influential people just looking for a place to be. Trans people negotiate a painful and direct marginalization on a daily basis to

example of a time when oppressive attitudes challenged and changed. The spaces we've been building for so long exist intact, and we grow stronger every year.

4. Healing matters: Even those who are uncomfortable with the idea of trans womyn at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival must understand that this moment is a positive one, and one of healing. This uncomfortable moment will invariably mean growth. This piece of land and community of people in Western Michigan will support that growth to happen, for all who are involved. After seven years of participating in this fight, and ten years of connection to MWMF, I can say for the first time that I feel an immense amount of trust in Camp Trans and in the Festival. All I want is a space that is larger than a closet to chill in for a week. Gimme a field. Gimme some woods. Give it to me on my beautiful home turf of Michigan. And give it to my friends, who ARE WOMYN, who are feminists, who are part of



varying degrees in this culture. For most of us, just as many lesbians have experienced, there is no place to go, very little support, and no such thing as 'trans-friendly-anything' in the daily world we walk through. We are forced to isolate pieces of our identity and hide pieces of our past and present at almost all times, for many reasons. We spend so much time trying to prove our validity it's virtually suffocating. Transwomyn experience oppression from multiple angles as womyn in the world who also have a unique and marginalized experience as trans.

3. Unity matters: Spaces like Camp Trans and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival are meant to be a breath of fresh air for people who live lives that are stifled by this kind of marginalization. Ideally, they give us strength to go back out in the world and engage in our

this community.

### What should we be talking about in our communities and preparing for next year?

The rumor mill works fast and a number of contradicting stories are in circulation regarding the events of this year. Please don't focus too hard on the details around the two trans womyn admitted this year—very few people were present and therefore very few people can speak accurately to those details. Take my personal recommendations instead:

Let's talk about how Camp Trans, the Yellow Armbands, and a large amount of MWMF workers and attendees are looking forward to welcoming trans people onto the land next year, and beginning to truly work together to support the existence of another trans-inclusive womyn-only space. Let's talk about how happy this coalition of womyn and

# Space

allies are, to be creating a more inclusive version of womyn's community that no longer excludes some of the most invisible and marginalized womyn who walk this planet. This is part of our path to healing, radical, feminist community.

If you have been boycotting the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival because of its trans inclusion policy, next year is the year to GO BACK TO THE FESTIVAL! For MWMF to work towards a genuine, grassroots trans inclusion, trans people and allies need to be there in full force, starting next year, from now on. The policy didn't go away, but its message is no longer the most important message. Folks with a better message need to be there to push this change along.

If you have participated in Camp Trans in past years, or always wanted to go, GO BACK next year! Camp Trans needs feminist, anti-racist trans folks and allies to continue building a space in those woods that can support political development, cultural festivities, and a continued relationship with the MWMF as the Festival's gates open up to the people who've been camping across the road. These coming years have been a long time coming and they are going to be some of the most challenging, and most celebratory years these spaces will see. Come on down and get a piece of the action.

## Congratulations everyone, we are real!

Five years ago at Camp Trans I think it was hard for most of us to imagine that things were really going to change, and change so fast. Many people gave up or stopped participating for personal or political reasons. If you are not able to be in Michigan for any number of reasons, celebrate. Talk it up. Start talking it up now and talk it up until next year. Camp Trans and anti-transphobia allies at MWMF have ushered in a turning of the tides, through a lot of real, concrete work. It didn't fall out of the sky; boycotts, educational campaigns, media work, and endless heartfelt



This flyer was handed out at the August San Francisco Critical Mass Bike ride

By the Committee for Full Enjoyment

The August 25, 2006 San Francisco Critical Mass commemorates Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing destruction of New Orleans. It was exactly one year ago, on August 25, 2005, that Katrina reached hurricane strength, beginning the process that led to New Orleans becoming "the worst disaster in US history."

But as we mourn the destruction of New Orleans, those of us in San Francisco can't help

# Redaling Face Disaster

Critical Mass ties it all together

corporations—like San Francisco's Bechtel—are now lining up for a chance to "rebuild" the birth clinic of the "new Middle East" in Lebanon.

FEMA's job is to preserve and extend class divisions in the U.S. Disasters like Katrina are opportunities for radical social engineering on behalf of society's owners. It's not incompetence when FEMA makes the disrupted lives of New Orleans' poor and black population into a story of permanent displacement, but rather it's a long-cherished goal of the city's

transportation of necessity, just like it was in 1906.

We cannot delude ourselves about how bad the world is, how much worse it's gotten since we started riding before Clinton's first election. In this age of cynicism, an unforgiving world is made meaner and colder by the haughty self-righteousness of venal government and business leaders, unapologetic profiteers and brazen war criminals who think they can escape justice forever. They won't, but no thanks to Critical Mass cyclists, who don't address this larger drama. We don't leave, or haven't yet, our self-defined limits of a rolling monthly seizure of the streets (a mere bike ride? hardly!) to contest the larger culture in other ways, but maybe that's OK.

Few of us are passive witnesses to this madness. During our daily lives we discuss and imagine alternatives all the time. We help each other live better lives through mutual aid and cooperation. Many people are tinkering in the growing mountains of waste to invent new homegrown technologies that anticipate the problems facing future post-oil survival. With a growing embrace of a broader ecological agenda, our small acts of resistance and renewal are already shaping the world to come. Our common wealth will be based on locally produced organic foods, wind and solar electricity, bicycling and recycled biofuels, restored habitats and daylighted waterways, vibrantly creative and diverse artistic cultures of free expression and easy-going tolerance, new combinations of urban and rural, and a media renaissance providing unprecedented breadth and depth in proliferating forms and outlets. Freed from the rigid limits imposed by profit-seeking, scientists could address problems they consider "unrealistic" today. Medical care can open up to many of the

'Our small acts of resistance  
and renewal are already  
shaping the world to come'

but remember that before Katrina it was our own city that held the title of "worst disaster"—and may yet again! Of course we all know that an active fault line rumbles beneath our feet, threatening to shake our city into rubble. But we also face looming disaster in the form of rising waters, as global temperatures (due, in no small measure, to the global car culture) raise the shoreline, and no one really knows how high it will go.

To acknowledge this fact, we propose a route along our current shoreline southward and through what was once Mission Bay before turning north and tracing a route along the FUTURE shoreline at a line approximately 15 feet above the current sea level. Many times we will cross the original shoreline to leave

wealthy owners. FEMA is the federal government's velvet-gloved fist to smash communities that have ideas of their own, dividing people to ensure confusion, isolation and dependency. The next step is to blame the victims for their condition. After months or years of delay and inadequate support, the dispersed and atomized victims are abandoned to their fates, urged to get on with their new lives.

When we bicycle together in Critical Mass we're engaged in a very different kind of radical social engineering. Critical Mass is a monthly practice of spontaneous collective cooperation and self-direction, just the opposite of a militarized bureaucracy like FEMA. More importantly, Critical Mass is

message. Folks with a better message need to be there to push this change along.

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Five years ago at Camp Trans I think it was hard for most of us to imagine that things were really going to change, and change so fast. Many people gave up or stopped participating for personal or political reasons. If you are not able to be in Michigan for any number of reasons, celebrate. Talk it up. Start talking it up now and talk it up until next year. Camp Trans and anti-transphobia allies at MWMF have ushered in a turning of the tides, through a lot of real, concrete work. It didn't fall out of the sky; boycotts, educational campaigns, media work, and endless heartfelt conversations for many years have built this change. Tell everyone how proud you are that people in your extended feminist community have pushed a true paradigm shift in the last fifteen years. Keep on working for change in your communities and keep on believing that change is going to come, and it won't fall from the sky (how nice would that be?) it will be created and cultivated by real people like us.

Friends, those of us in San Francisco can help

## 'Our small acts of resistance and renewal are already shaping the world to come'

but remember that before Katrina it was our own city that held the title of "worst disaster"—and may yet again! Of course we all know that an active fault line rumbles beneath our feet, threatening to shake our city into rubble. But we also face looming disaster in the form of rising waters, as global temperatures (due, in no small measure, to the global car culture) raise the shoreline, and no one really knows how high it will go.

To acknowledge this fact, we propose a route along our current shoreline southward and through what was once Mission Bay before turning north and tracing a route along the FUTURE shoreline at a line approximately 15 feet above the current sea level. Many times we will traverse the original shoreline too, long ago filled in with sand and soil from San Francisco hills that are no more.

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Manipulation Agency, is blamed for flubbing the relief effort in New Orleans. But FEMA has done its job perfectly! It has channeled billions in relief funds directly to the same businesses that have profited so handsomely from the destruction of Iraq. No doubt the same insider

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When we bicycle together in Critical Mass we're engaged in a very different kind of radical social engineering. Critical Mass is a monthly practice of spontaneous collective cooperation and self-direction, just the opposite of a militarized bureaucracy like FEMA. More importantly, Critical Mass is an actively maintained social vaccination against the kind of isolation and despondency FEMA creates and enforces. Communicating in the heat of the moment, solving problems face to face, cooperating with people we otherwise haven't had much contact with, are all practical skills in disaster preparedness. And let's face it, when the streets are filled with quake rubble, the bicycle will become the

don't address this larger drama. We don't leave, or haven't yet, our self-defined limits of a rolling monthly seizure of the streets (a mere bike ride? hardly!) to contest the larger culture in other ways, but maybe that's OK.

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Who knew that riding home together once a month could open the space to imagine such a different world? How many of us realize that we're already pedaling in the right direction?

# REAWAKENING MY ANIMAL CONSCIOUSNESS

By....the cat that came back

The rainbow gathering — that is where I spent two and a half weeks this summer; eating zuzus in the middle of the night, making music, making love, having sex, trading crystals for tarot cards, and running around like crazy.

Through my animal eyes, I see some humans as animals who got very carried away in building their colonies — like ants on speed, or something. Now when I do things to help flow peoples' houses, I see the absurdity of it all. Today as I was helping my aunt in her backyard,

People are scared. My friends tell me they wish they had my life. It is so obvious to me that it is everyone's life. "You can have the whole world!" I am screaming inside. "You can have today, you can have tomorrow. You can create opportunities with every breath!" But...

while someone else was in the bathroom (at the gathering, you pee next to any random tree that is far enough away from any tents, trails, or kitchens, and there are plenty of people around).

I am learning how important it is to be related to people, to relate to the earth, to be

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I heard someone say that if you get depressed when you leave the gathering and go to the city, remember that one part of the gathering is, instead of escaping, healing, so you can bring some of that woods consciousness with you wherever you go. Today I picked up my pen and journal to write an article about the beauty I saw at the rainbow, and what lessons there are to learn from it. I want people to think about how they relate to the earth and each other, and how those things are the same.

I came back into the cities with a further developed animal consciousness. I look around me and see what is alive — plants, hills, rocks, birds, water, humans naked under their clothes. I saw and understood a lake nestled in the foothills of the mountains on the edge of a desert, without the words I just used to describe that place. That lake transcends the sign some Bisy Bakson (reference: The Tao of Pooh) put up next to it that reads "Topaz" and underneath that word, the elevation in number of feet above sea level. It transcends the word 'lake' and even transcends the word 'water'.

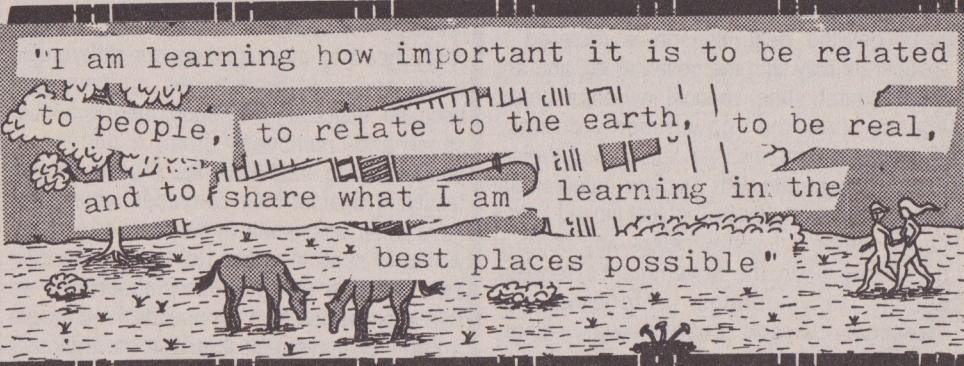
Through my animal eyes, I see some humans as animals who got very carried away in building their colonies — like ants on speed, or something. Now when I do things to help flow peoples' houses, I see the absurdity of it all. Today as I was helping my aunt in her backyard, I imagined, if there were no houses here, no

People are scared. My friends tell me they wish they had my life. It is so obvious to me that it is everyone's life. "You can have the whole world!" I am screaming inside. "You can have today, you can have tomorrow. You can create opportunities with every breath!" But...

...people are scared. Scared to hitchhike,

while someone else was in the bathroom (at the gathering, you pee next to any random tree that is far enough away from any tents, trails, or kitchens, and there are plenty of people around).

I am learning how important it is to be related to people, to relate to the earth, to be real, and to share what I am learning in the best places possible.



fences, cars, roads, if I had no clothes on, what would I be? A crazy fucking girl sitting in the middle of the desert sawing a piece of wood to a shorter length. Pointless. Insane. Never trust white man's tools, I've heard.

Here I am in this podunk little town, learning how afraid people are. I came here to see my family, my friends from way-back-when. I am doing that. I am watching my friends live in ways that seem like a game to me: work, school, boyfriend, rent, drama, obedience.

scared to live above the illusory law, scared to make friends, to take risks, to trust that the world will provide. People are scared of instability, scared of Now, scared to share; share a loved one, their bodies, their thoughts. I see it, I hear it. I watched a girl accused of cheating on her jealous boyfriend for participating in a consensual threesome. I listened to a friend say she would never go skinny-dipping, while I'm thinking, "How else do you go swimming?" It was unusual that I walked in front of a window naked, and that I peed

Hi, story! That is what this is, more than a newspaper article. It is a story about me, and about you. Here is a story about dancing naked in the rain, and hugging people for three full breaths, and being the animal you really are. This is our story. It is about watching buildings crumble (they are compost tool), and grass growing in the sidewalk cracks until there is only crumbles of sidewalk in the cracks of grass. It is a story about burning textbooks, holy scriptures, and down, dead wood to warm ourselves, as we sit around the fire on a cool, starry night, knowing we are one. Our story is about happiness, and our story is about freedom.

# Rob Los Ricos Talk

Continued from page 1

forced to piss in water... You shouldn't be pissing in water you can drink. Anyways, I didn't live indoors and so the only way I was able to be forced [was to be] locked in a cage and made to live this sedentary lifestyle that I had totally rejected. I felt pretty smug about that at first.

## Heart Check

As awful, as dehumanizing a place as it was, I did actually meet some really awesome people while in prison... the coolest cellmate I had by all accounts was Critter (Craig Marshall) who was my cellmate for about four months... It took Free (Jeff Luers) longer to get in (*sic*) and be processed by the system... because... [Critter] took the deal that was offered whereas Free wanted to take it to trial. Apparently they had a chance to discuss this and Free didn't have a problem with that. There was a letter recently in the *Earth First! Journal* saying that because Critter took a deal that makes him a snitch against Free. That's totally not the case... [the letter writer was] definitely not speaking on behalf of anyone... Critter was an exemplary convict while he was in prison and [there is] a lot of respect for both of these guys because there's one thing that [the other prisoners] respect in prison, and that's people that stand up for and fight for what they believe in their heart. That's why our zine, the zine Free and I did together was called *Heartcheck* because in prison that's the only way you can judge a person—by what's in their heart and what they're willing to stand up for and what they are willing to fight for.

## Chow Hall Strike

I can't even remember why we did this, but I think it had to do with the phone system. They were messing with the phone system in Oregon... people were complaining about it and their solution to fix it was basically to force everyone to buy phone service from some

could get any other kind of job there... We organized this lunch room strike. It was just amazing because out of maybe 2200 prisoners incarcerated... only about 200 people went to

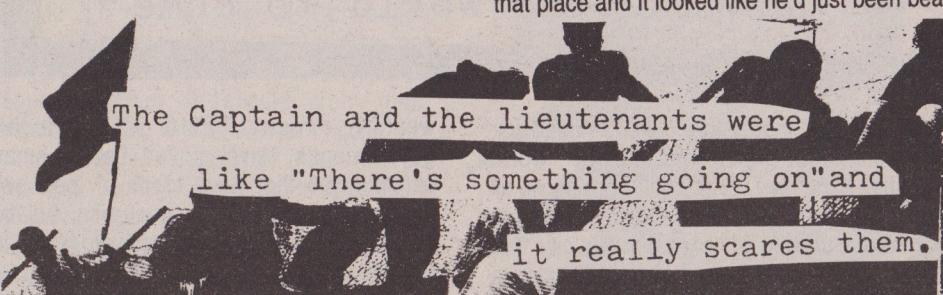
the chow hall. The place didn't fill up. Normally, they have to pace people coming in because there is only seating for 400 people, and they have to run people a tier at a time... It usually takes a couple hours to get everyone fed, but this time it took about 20 minutes because they would run an entire cell block and twelve people would come out of, say, 700. Before I went to work we were walking up and down the tier, those of us that had money on our books... making sure that... everyone knew that it was a strike, [saying] "don't go to chow hall" and making sure that they had food... You can get a little packet of ramen for ten cents so we had stacks of them and... would toss them [to folks without their own food, saying] "eat this and if you need something later we can get you something later."... As the meal progressed,

to use the phone by the other inmates. Eventually they broke that down, put the place on lock down and if you didn't like it, "too bad because that's the way it was."

## Torture

To get to the issue of torture, there is torture in the Oregon system and... they kill inmates sometimes. That's the Intensive Management Unit where they do all this, and the Intensive Management Unit is like the prison within a prison. The hole, which is a disciplinary segregation unit, is just a jail. Basically you're misbehaving and they are going to put you in there, but if you are really crazy or out of control... if they think you're a really serious threat, they'll put you in the IMU...

[recording inaudible — Rob explains that while he was in prison an inmate was found dead in the IMU and that the official story] ...was that he had hanged himself in his cell but according to one of my friends that worked on the clean up crew—that went to clean up blood—he said that blood was all over his cell. I mean, all over that place and it looked like he'd just been beat



and no one was coming to chow, the guards were getting nervous. Then the administrators that you never see—the assistant warden and the warden—came down. You never see them in the chow hall, because basically it's not a safe place for them to be. And, the captain on duty and the lieutenants—they all came to the chow hall and were looking around because it was a sea of empty seats.

to death because there [were] blood splatters everywhere. You could see... how it sprayed after someone had just whacked him across the head with a stick or something... It was all over... on the ceiling and everything... [Anyway] they keep [the prisoners they torture] in isolation and they pretty much do whatever they want back there. Most of the shenanigans going on at Abu Ghraib and other places

# fighting

## Green

By Civil Rights Outreach Committee (with *Slingshot* editing and updates)

The federal green scare trial of Jonathan Paul, Daniel McGowan, Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher — charged with involvement in a series of arsons claimed by the Earth Liberation Front — has been moved from October 31 to mid-March, 2007 after a summer that saw numerous other defendants in the case take plea deals and agree to cooperate with the government.

The four remaining defendants, plus Briana Waters who currently faces a separate May, 2007 trial date, now face trial with several of their once co-defendants preparing to offer up dubious testimony against them, while the government raises the specter of "terrorism" over alleged property damage allegations in defense of the environment. No one was injured in any of the arsons that form the basis for the case. Block, Zacher and McGowan face charges that carry a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence, and maximums of life plus 300 to 1,015 years. All remaining defendants also face a "terrorism enhancement" under federal sentencing guidelines, which carries a maximum 30 year sentence.

These five non-cooperating defendants are in urgent need of support for their resistance to the federal government's attempt to railroad them.

## Background

Chelsea Gerlach, William Rodgers, Kendall

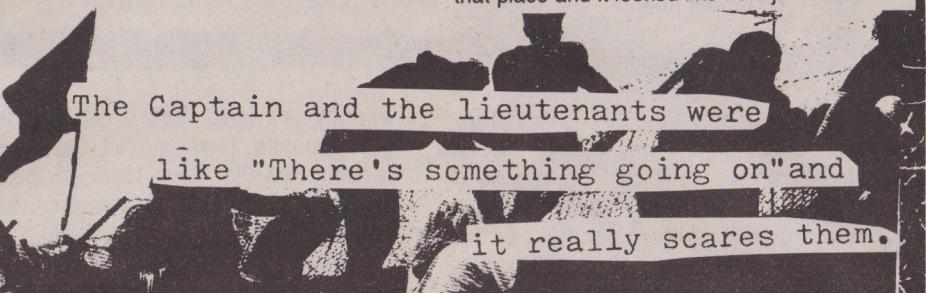
and Free didn't have a problem with that. There was a letter recently in the *Earth First! Journal* saying that because Critter took a deal that makes him a snitch against Free. That's totally not the case... [the letter writer was] definitely not speaking on behalf of anyone... Critter was an exemplary convict while he was in prison and [there is] a lot of respect for both of these guys because there's one thing that [the other prisoners] respect in prison, and that's people that stand up for and fight for what they believe in their heart. That's why our zine, the zine Free and I did together was called *Heartcheck* because in prison that's the only way you can judge a person—by what's in their heart and what they're willing to stand up for and what they are willing to fight for.

### **Chow Hall Strike**

I can't even remember why we did this, but I think it had to do with the phone system. They were messing with the phone system in Oregon... people were complaining about it and their solution to fix it was basically to force everyone to buy phone service from some company in Texas... the whole thing [didn't] make any sense. The money that you put into it [was] non refundable even if you never successfully make a phone call... and you [had] to give them fifty dollars just to have the privilege... to make a collect phone call... [So] while people were protesting that, we decided—just to show the administration that we can do things without their knowledge or without their consent—we decided to have a day where no one would go to the chow hall and eat. I was working in the chow hall at the time because... I had just gotten out of the hole, and you have to go work in the chow hall before you

little packet of ramen for ten cents so we had stacks of them and... would toss them [to folks without their own food, saying] "eat this and if you need something later we can get you something later."... As the meal progressed,

the IMO and that the official story... was that he had hanged himself in his cell but according to one of my friends that worked on the clean up crew—that went to clean up blood—he said that blood was all over his cell. I mean, all over that place and it looked like he'd just been beat



and no one was coming to chow, the guards were getting nervous. Then the administrators that you never see—the assistant warden and the warden—came down. You never see them in the chow hall, because basically it's not a safe place for them to be. And, the captain on duty and the lieutenants—they all came to the chow hall and were looking around because it was a sea of empty seats. They were like "There's something going on" and it really scares them because it makes them realize that they are not in control of this place. They are just not in control. They are in control because we allow them to be; that got their attention. They were kind of scared and they talked to the shot callers—everyone knows who the shot callers on the yard are—...and asked what the deal was and basically whatever the phone system was... They went ahead and shut that down and tried something else.

Later, there was a phone strike—people were not using the phone or not being allowed

to death because there [were] blood splatters everywhere. You could see... how it sprayed after someone had just whacked him across the head with a stick or something... It was all over... on the ceiling and everything... [Anyway] they keep [the prisoners they torture] in isolation and they pretty much do whatever they want back there. Most of the shenanigans going on at Abu Ghraib and other places abroad...are [being committed by] national guard soldiers that were prison guards before they went over there, you know. That was their... specialty as a national guard person... being a prison guard over there. I'm sure that just about everything that happens over there, they were doing also here before they went over... maybe not on the same scale as they are doing it over there... [because] over there... no one gives a shit, whereas over here, they have to be careful and not get caught.

### **Pulling Together**

I was released finally on June 29 of this year and—what can I say—it is great to be out of prison. It is great to be visiting these different communities; seeing what's going on place to place; and meeting a lot of people I have only had contact with by mail; being able to give hugs and seeing what's been going on, because things got crazy there for a while and things have grown a lot since I've been in prison. There are a lot more anarchist-identified people, a lot of anarchist-type projects going on in every city I've been to so far, and I'm just more aware all the time. We have a very large movement now and we have a lot of resources. Sadly though, we are a very fragmented movement, and people don't realize just how big we are and just how many resources we have at our disposal. We just really need to start...putting our differences

## **ALONE AGAINST TERRORISM CHARGES**

Eric McDavid — framed and in jail awaiting trial on federal conspiracy charges for a alleged "eco-arsenal" action that never happened — needs support more than ever now that both of his co-defendants (friends he was arrested with) have agreed to cooperate

Under the deal, Jenson faces five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The plea agreement characterizes the "conspiracy" as terrorism and notes that "pursuant to USSG Sec. 3A1.4, the offense was a felony that involved, or was intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism..."

To get the deal, Jenson is required to "cooperate fully with the government and any

summer that saw numerous other defendants in the case take plea deals and agree to cooperate with the government.

The four remaining defendants, plus Briana Waters who currently faces a separate May, 2007 trial date, now face trial with several of their once co-defendants preparing to offer up dubious testimony against them, while the government raises the specter of "terrorism" over alleged property damage allegations in defense of the environment. No one was injured in any of the arsons that form the basis for the case. Block, Zacher and McGowan face charges that carry a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence, and maximums of life plus 300 to 1,015 years. All remaining defendants also face a "terrorism enhancement" under federal sentencing guidelines, which carries a maximum 30 year sentence.

These five non-cooperating defendants are in urgent need of support for their resistance to the federal government's attempt to railroad them.

### **Background**

Chelsea Gerlach, William Rodgers, Kendall Tankersley, Kevin Tubbs, Daniel McGowan and Stanislas Meyerhoff were arrested and charged with various arsons December 7, 2005 as part of the FBI's "Operation Backfire." Within days of the first arrests, it was revealed that informants, including Jacob

## **RÉPRESSION**



"Jake" Ferguson of Eugene, were the sole basis relied upon by the feds in making the arrests. Meyerhoff quickly agreed to cooperate with the feds. On December 22, William "Avalon" Rodgers was found dead in his cell in Flagstaff, Arizona, from an apparent suicide.

On January 20, federal prosecutors, the

[was] non refundable even if you never successfully make a phone call... and you [had] to give them fifty dollars just to have the privilege... to make a collect phone call... [So] while people were protesting that, we decided—just to show the administration that we can do things with out their knowledge or without their consent—we decided to have a day where no one would go to the chow hall and eat. I was working in the chow hall at the time because... I had just gotten out of the hole, and you have to go work in the chow hall before you

them realize that they are not in control of this place. They are just not in control. They are in control because we allow them to be; that got their attention. They were kind of scared and they talked to the shot callers—everyone knows who the shot callers on the yard are—...and asked what the deal was and basically whatever the phone system was... They went ahead and shut that down and tried something else.

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I was released finally on June 29 of this year and—what can I say—it is great to be out of prison. It is great to be visiting these different communities; seeing what's going on place to place; and meeting a lot of people I have only had contact with by mail; being able to give hugs and seeing what's been going on, because things got crazy there for a while and things have grown a lot since I've been in prison. There are a lot more anarchist-identified people, a lot of anarchist-type projects going on in every city I've been to so far, and I'm just more aware all the time. We have a very large movement now and we have a lot of resources. Sadly though, we are a very fragmented movement, and people don't realize just how big we are and just how many resources we have at our disposal. We just really need to start...putting our differences aside and start working as a community because, especially in Oregon, there is a lot of shock and...numbness [from] a number of people turning state evidence. [This is people] testifying against their comrades whom they have taken actions with in the past and now are willing to send to prison [to] try to save their own ass. [We would be more effective] if we had stronger ties as a community, [if] we were a stronger movement that was more closely knit where people didn't drift in and out of it, and people didn't feel like they had no future in it, and people didn't feel like only their closest friends were [trustworthy]. We really have to pull together as a movement and become a more cohesive and coherent group that can withstand pressure from the police, that can withstand arrest, and when people go to prison we can support them and help them deal with the situation they are in and get them out as healthy human beings [who] can actually come back as part of our movement again.

## ALONE AGAINST TERRORISM CHARGES

Eric McDavid — framed and in jail awaiting trial on federal conspiracy charges for a alleged “eco-arson” action that never happened — needs support more than ever now that both of his co-defendants (friends he was arrested with) have agreed to cooperate with the government and testify against him. McDavid was arrested January 13 near Sacramento, Calif. along with Lauren Weiner and Zachary Jenson and charged with conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives. Although the group never carried out any action, Eric faces up to 20 years in federal prison if convicted. As previously reported in *Slingshot*, the three were set-up by a “confidential source” known as “Anna” who was paid at least \$75,000 by the FBI to plan arson with the three activists while living and traveling with them to numerous radical events. Anna was Eric’s girlfriend during this period.

In July, Zack Jenson took a plea agreement and agreed to cooperate with the government. Weiner had agreed to cooperate in May. Eric, who still claims his innocence, is now alone, betrayed by his friends.

Under the deal, Jenson faces five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The plea agreement characterizes the “conspiracy” as terrorism and notes that “pursuant to USSG Sec. 3A1.4, the offense was a felony that involved, or was intended to promote a federal crime of terrorism . . .”

To get the deal, Jenson is required to “cooperate fully with the government, and any other federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, as the government directs.” “Cooperation” means that Jenson and Weiner have to cooperate with any law enforcement agency about any issue (not just limited to this case); they must testify before any court or grand jury upon the government’s request, submit to meetings, interviews, or investigations and answer every single question ‘completely’.

Eric needs support more than ever. Write him a letter but please refrain from writing about his case and issues related to it, as pre-trial prisoners’ mail can be used against them in court. Write McDavid, Eric X-2972521 4E 231A Sacramento County Main Jail 651 “I” Street Sacramento, CA 95814.

Check out the text of the plea agreement: [www.indybay.org/uploads/2006/07/20/zach\\_plea.pdf](http://www.indybay.org/uploads/2006/07/20/zach_plea.pdf). For more support info, check [www.supporteric.org](http://www.supporteric.org).

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On January 20, federal prosecutors, the head of the FBI, and US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales held a press conference announcing a sweeping 65-count indictment, including two conspiracy charges, against 11 individuals relating to 17 different incidents in Oregon, Washington and California. In addition to the six people arrested on December 7, the Oregon indictment also named Jonathan Paul, Suzanne Savoie, Joseph “Joe” Dibee, Rebecca Rubin and Josephine Sunshine Overaker.

The Oregon indictment charged certain defendants with arson, attempted arson, and using and carrying a destructive device. The destructive device charge, 18 USC 924(c), carries a 30-year mandatory sentence and a life sentence for a second conviction of the charge.

In the weeks that followed, five individuals were revealed as “confidential sources” for the government’s case. Subsequently, on

# the fear Machine

## Scare Arrests

February 23, Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher were arrested in Olympia and were charged with involvement in the 2001 Jefferson Poplar and Romania II arsons.

On March 30, Briana Waters was arrested in connection with an alleged arson at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture in 2001. Her trial is scheduled for May 7, 2007. She staunchly maintains her innocence to the charges and is free awaiting trial. On May 10, a superseding indictment charged Waters with the destructive device charge and added Solondz, Tubbs and Rodgers to the UW arson case. Named informants in this case include Jennifer "Jen" Kolar and ex-Earth First! Journal editor Lacey Phillabaum, both of whom walk free as

uncharged co-conspirators as of this writing.

On April 6, an indictment in connection with a 2001 horse corral fire near Susanville, California charged Justin Solondz, Joe Dibee, Rebecca Rubin and Darren Thurston. On May 18, a federal grand jury indicted Chelsea Gerlach, Stanislas Meyerhoff, Josephine Sunshine Overaker and Rebecca Rubin for alleged involvement in the 1998 arson of the Vail ski resort.

(However, the judge unsealed some portions of these documents at an August 22 hearing — read them at [cldc.org](http://cldc.org).)

The government announced that it would pursue upward enhancement of sentences for the six taking pleas, arguing that the federal terrorism enhancement guidelines apply to their sentences as well. This enhancement, normally only utilized in cases where human lives were lost in incidents such as 9/11, carries up to an additional 30 year sentence. The government indicated that the defendants were free to argue against the terrorism enhancement, however, it would appear that all of the defendants who entered pleas in July stipulated to the prosecution's "facts" underlying the plea petition. These "facts" included the verbatim definition of a "federal crime of terrorism," thereby reducing the amount of work the feds will have to do to convince a judge that the enhancement applies. The definition of terrorism read in open court by the prosecutors is: A crime calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct. Under this broad definition, historic acts of nonviolent civil disobedience could be construed as terrorism.

It is confusing and troubling that these defendants would permit the feds to

## Update

On June 27, Jim Dawson of Olympia received a subpoena to appear before a grand jury in Seattle. His appearance has been postponed since he consented to be questioned by the FBI in lieu of his scheduled grand jury appearance. His partner, Heather Moore, also of Olympia, had earlier agreed to be voluntarily questioned by the feds regarding her community. The extent of their disclosures to the government is unknown at this time. As a result of their voluntary cooperation, additional subpoenas are possible.

The fact that the feds are continuing to subpoena people would normally lead one to believe that the government continues to search for additional defendants in these

Without the information provided by Jake Ferguson, uncharged informants such as Jennifer Kolar and Lacey Phillabaum, as well as the parroted statements made by the cooperating defendants thus far, there would be no federal case. Ferguson and Stanislas Meyerhoff have admitted to their participation in most of the alleged arsons, yet Ferguson remains free and without charges (and according to a *Rolling Stone* article, \$50,000 richer). To date, no other hard evidence exists linking the defendants to the alleged charges. The snitch statements all vastly contradict each other and have changed and evolved as the government changes its story. These informants will face cross examination at trial and vast amounts of resources are being utilized in defense of those defendants who continue to assert their innocence before a jury of their peers.

### Misuse of Grand Juries

On March 21, Camilo Stephenson was subpoenaed to a Denver grand jury and questioned about the 1998 Vail ski resort fire. Jake Ferguson told the feds that Stephenson would substantiate his story that attempted to rope in additional people. Stephenson

cases — it is either that, or a grave abuse of the grand jury system at work. In the Oregon court hearing on June 28, Jonathan Paul's attorney told the court that he was putting the government on notice that he was deeply concerned with the unlawful abuses of the grand jury system by the government. Grand juries are intended only to decide whether or not to bring indictments. In this case grand juries are being used to gather evidence to prepare for trial, an illegal use of the grand jury.

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#### Plea Deals Aplenty

Without any notice to the codefendants or the public, on July 20 and 21, formal change of plea hearings were held in the Oregon court for Darren Thurston, Kevin Tubbs, Kendall Tankersley, Stanislas Meyerhoff, Chelsea Gerlach and Suzanne Savoie. These six pled guilty to a variety of conspiracy, arson and attempted arson charges — none of them pled to the destructive device charge used as a hammer by the feds in coercing these people to become informants. The US attorney's office recommended sentence for Stanislas Meyerhoff is 188 months imprisonment for pleading guilty to 54 charges; Kevin Tubbs, 168 months for 56 charges; Chelsea Gerlach, 120 months for 18; Suzanne Savoie, 63 months for 15; Kendall Tankersley, 51 months for three; and Darren Thurston, 37 months for two.

The above terms of imprisonment are recommendations that the feds will make to the Court at the time of sentencing and are contingent upon these cooperating defendants continued full and complete cooperation for the rest of their lives. This term applies to ALL of the defendants who have pled out so far.

During this hearing, the government seemed especially keen on connecting the ELF and the ALE to broader environmental efforts and

the six taking pleas, arguing that the federal terrorism enhancement guidelines apply to their sentences as well. This enhancement, normally only utilized in cases where human lives were lost in incidents such as 9/11, carries up to an additional 30 year sentence. The government indicated that the defendants were free to argue against the terrorism enhancement, however, it would appear that all of the defendants who entered pleas in July stipulated to the prosecution's "facts" underlying the plea petition. These "facts" included the verbatim definition of a "federal crime of terrorism," thereby reducing the amount of work the feds will have to do to convince a judge that the enhancement applies. The definition of terrorism read in open court by the prosecutors is: A crime calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct. Under this broad definition, historic acts of nonviolent civil disobedience could be construed as terrorism.

It is confusing and troubling that these defendants would permit the feds to potentially brand them with this over-used and inappropriate label.

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#### Misuse of Grand Juries

On March 21, Camilo Stephenson was subpoenaed to a Denver grand jury and questioned about the 1998 Vail ski resort fire. Jake Ferguson told the feds that Stephenson would substantiate his story that attempted to rope in additional people. Stephenson denied any knowledge of any of the incidents and was able to inform the jury as to Jake's

had earlier agreed to be voluntarily questioned by the feds regarding her community. The extent of their disclosures to the government is unknown at this time. As a result of their voluntary cooperation, additional subpoenas are possible.

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#### Support Information

The next status hearing for Jonathan Paul, Daniel McGowan, Nathan Block and Joyanna Zacher is set for October 31 in Eugene, Oregon federal court. The court will further consider the defendants' motion for the release of National Security Agency wiretaps and FISA surveillance of the activist community in Eugene and elsewhere for the past decade or more. At an August 22 hearing, federal prosecutors said they didn't have "clearance" to discuss the issue.

The government continues to monitor and scrutinize media discussion of the green scare cases including on-line sources such as indy media sites. Many of the court filings include voluminous pages printed from the internet comment sections, personal email communications, and other documents that make it obvious that the government continues to spy on political groups and their activities. There is nothing illegal about doing prisoner support or discussing current events, but the feds continue to manipulate and misconstrue these communications to their own benefit. Please think of this before you write and post on the internet.

To stay informed about the latest goings on related to the Green Scare, visit [cldc.org](http://cldc.org) or

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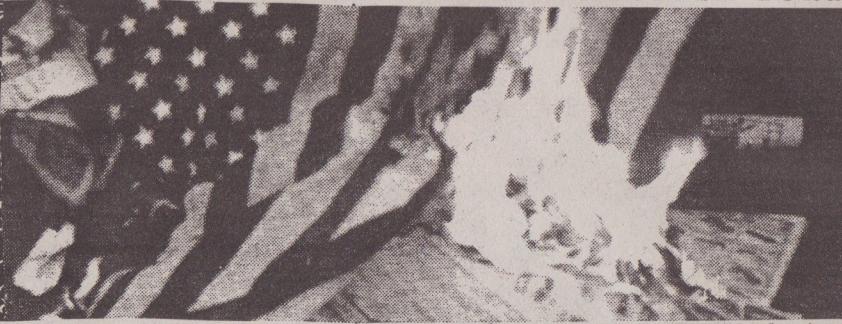
During this hearing, the government seemed especially keen on connecting the ELF and the ALF to broader environmental efforts and movements. The state stressed that Stanislas Meyerhoff and other defendants allegedly

attended an Earth First! party directly after performing a sabotage, and also that the Vail arson followed unsuccessful litigation and grassroots campaigns against ski resort development in the area. The government also made a point of stressing that these defendants used the term "direct action" in reference to the arson incidents.

For the first time, new allegations were disclosed at the change of plea hearings disclosing additional arsons that allegedly occurred in Phoenix, Arizona, and the eastern district of Michigan.

Upon motion by the cooperating defendants' attorneys, all of the plea petitions, cooperation agreements, and even the transcripts of the public court hearing for all six, were sealed, making them unavailable for public scrutiny.

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Lacey Phillabaum was expected to enter a plea in Seattle in exchange for her cooperation. It is unclear which of the many jurisdictions informant Jennifer Kolar will plea in as a result of her extensive cooperation with the feds. Numerous other people have been contacted and have voluntarily agreed to provide information to the federal government about these cases, their political ideologies and their associations.

As *Slingshot* goes to press, Suzanne Savoie, Kendall Tankersley, Daniel McGowan, Jonathan Paul and Briana Waters are all out on pre-trial release. All other persons indicted in Oregon who have been located, are currently in custody. A number of people charged with

crimes have not been captured and may be living overseas.

reputation as a drug addict, thief, and untrustworthy individual.

Jeff Hogg and Burke Morris were subpoenaed to testify in front of federal grand juries on May 18, Jeff in Eugene and Burke in Denver. Jeff refused to testify before the grand jury and was held in contempt by Judge Michael Hogan and sent to jail. Jeff is still in and could remain in jail until the grand jury's expiration, which may be extended until March, 2007.

Burke answered limited questions asked by the Denver grand jury, questions about his personal life, but denied any knowledge of the incidents about which he was questioned. Burke also ended up in this position as a result of Jake Ferguson trying to use him to corroborate untruthful statements that Ferguson made to the feds.

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To stay informed about the latest goings on related to the Green Scare, visit [cldc.org](http://cldc.org) or [portland.indymedia.org](http://portland.indymedia.org). Don't forget to write to and support the non-cooperating defendants and talk to your friends and neighbors about the Green Scare cases.

- **Nathan Block** #1663667, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401
- **Joyanna Zacher** #1662550, Lane County Jail, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401
- **Jeff Hogg** #1065518, 1901 N.E. F St., Grants Pass, OR 97526
- **Daniel McGowan** [www.supportdaniel.org](http://www.supportdaniel.org)
- **Briana Waters** [www.supportbriana.org](http://www.supportbriana.org)

If anyone has information they are willing to share on any of the cooperating witnesses, background, history, etc., to help in the defense of the non-cooperating defendants, please contact attorney Lauren Regan at [lregan@cldc.org](mailto:lregan@cldc.org). Your opinion or anecdote could save a brave person many years in jail.

The Civil Rights Outreach Committee is a media working group regarding the Green Scare: [civilrightsoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:civilrightsoutreach@gmail.com).

IF WE DON'T ALL



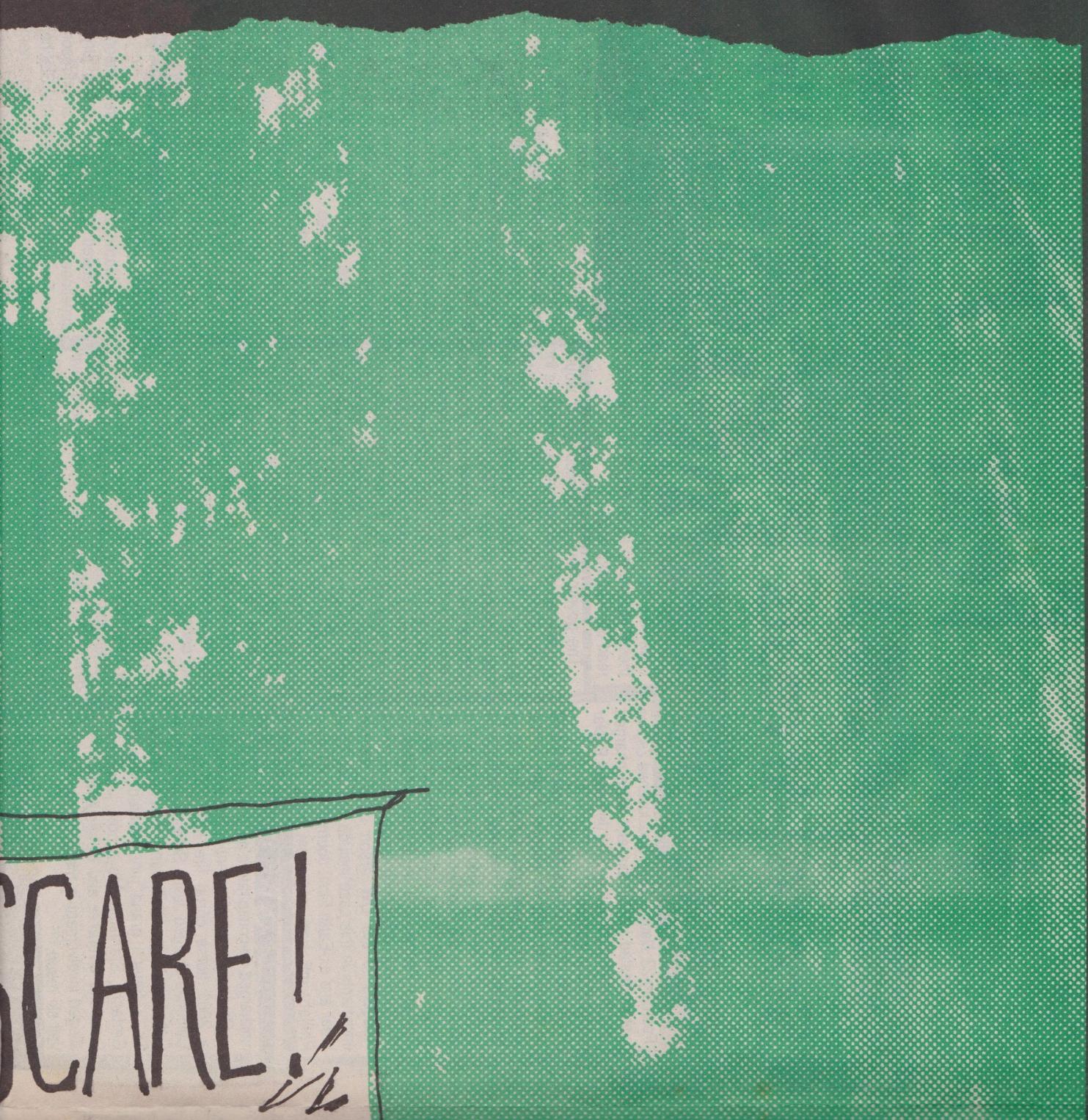
RESIST GREEN

OK, IT ALL HANG TOGETHER



ST GREENSCARE!

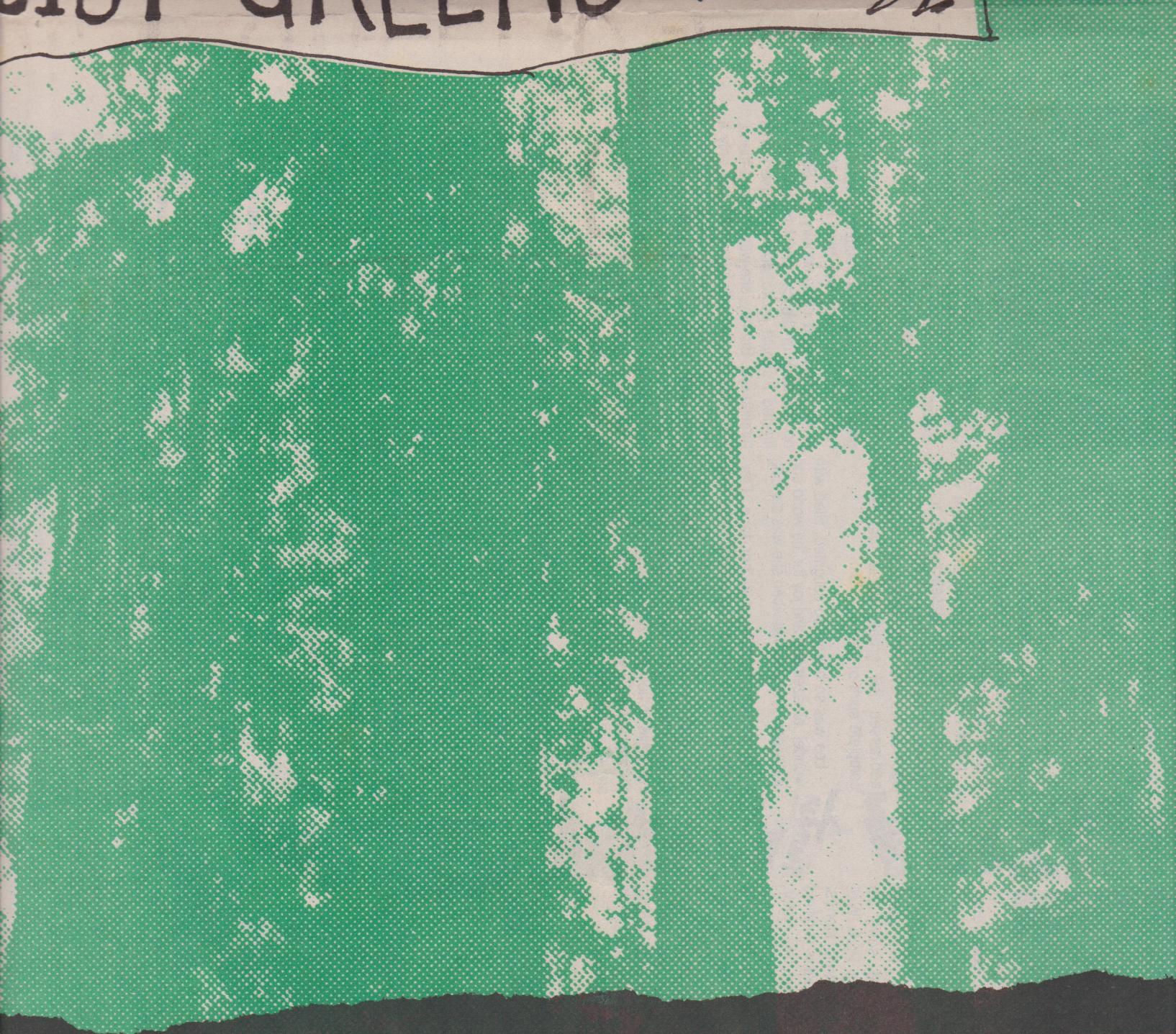
# HANG TOGETHER



SCARE!

ANTI-DRILL

WE'LL ALL HARM



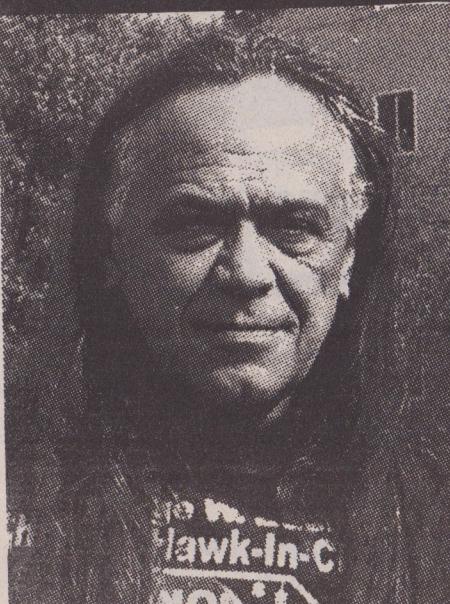
ALL HANG SEPARATELY



SEPARATELY

# THUNDER

## 1951-2006



Thunder, Rafael Donner, a long time papers and often supplemented his activist, was found dead in his car on the deliveries with important community streets of West Berkeley. Native American information. He was mentor to radicals and Californian born in Berkeley. lifelong friends.

Californian, born in Berkeley, lifelong social/civil rights activist, Thunder spent years working to free Leonard Peltier by coordinating monthly prayer circles in front of the Oakland Federal Building. He was a DJ on 104.1FM for both Free Radio Berkeley and Berkeley Liberation Radio doing radio shows; one "Kbridsoundz", which aired many Saturday mornings and another entitled "Earth First, Corporations Last". He was also a dedicated advocate for People's Park and worked on the People's Park Anniversaries. He often recited the opening prayer during Park celebrations and could be found at numerous Native American powwow's and powwow's.

A Memorial was held July 30 starting at the Ho Chi Minh (Willard) Park which proceeded with drum and song up Telegraph Avenue to People's Park. Well over a hundred people shared stories, prayers and memories. Thunder is survived by two children, their mother, his sister, nephew, and the larger community of friends and projects that he gave so much to. The week before his death, Thunder shared a prayer by painting it in the mural on the bathroom in People's Park: "Father Sky, Thank You for Sharing Sunlight, Mother Earth for Sharing All of Your Gifts, Mother

**Sharing  
all of  
your  
gifts  
makes** Les Mastenbrook was killed in a car crash in Cheyenne, Wyoming while driving cross-country from Oakland to Massachusetts to visit friends and her family there. Les joined the Slingshot collective earlier this year and was working on re-designing our website when she died.

Les was cut down at a very young age, but during her short time on earth, she made a lot out of her life. She grew up in Concord, MA and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art, from which she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in photography. She moved to Oakland where she made close ties with lots of folks. She was into screen printing, live music, photography, travel, cooking, web design and riding bicycles. Her excitement for life and warm smile were infectious.

The following was written by her house mate and friend Jacqueline

for  
the  
child

I had wonderful but brief encounters with Les. When I went to Massachusetts for her funeral, I heard stories of her childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood that together addressed the great puzzle that is the complete spirit of Les.

Les was so happy, so delighted, filled with wonder, amazement, and joy for the world and its people. We first met when she was dancing

— an immense smile upon her face. Les wrapped her arm around my shoulder and I felt

really happy as we danced at that show. At other shows I went to with her, she always had that smile on her face. When we sat and talked she was excited and exuberant. She was always

# LES 1982-2006



the world happened around her — and it did. Soon we became friends — inseparable. We looked out for one another and took on each other's lives and burdens.

I find solace that our last encounter was a great one. While I was heading to work, Les came back for some forgotten items for her much anticipated cross-country trip. She sat on the back of the car and I on my bike. I figured I should go to work because I was running late. But hey, she was my good friend, and I would rather talk to her. We had only a few moments together then we said, "I love you — have fun". I gave her a kiss on her cheeks and I rode off. For selfish reasons I wish Les could come back, although I know that she was completely fulfilled with the life she had

hawk-In-C

Thunder, Rafael Donner, a long time activist, was found dead in his car on the streets of West Berkeley. Native American Californian, born in Berkeley, lifelong social/civil rights activist, Thunder spent years working to free Leonard Peltier by coordinating monthly prayer circles in front of the Oakland Federal Building. He was a DJ on 104.1FM for both Free Radio Berkeley and Berkeley Liberation Radio doing radio shows; one "Kidsoundz", which aired many Saturday mornings and another entitled "Earth First, Corporations Last".

He was also a dedicated advocate for People's Park and worked on the People's Park Anniversaries. He often recited the opening prayer during Park celebrations and could be found at numerous Native American Powwows, Sunrise Ceremonies and other functions. He delivered free local

A Memorial was held July 30 starting at the Ho Chi Minh (Willard) Park which proceeded with drum and song up Telegraph Avenue to People's Park. Well over a hundred people shared stories, prayers and memories. Thunder is survived by two children, their mother, his sister, nephew, and the larger community of friends and projects that he gave so much to. The week before his death, Thunder shared a prayer by painting it in the mural on the bathroom in People's Park: "Father Sky, Thank You for Sharing Sunlight, Mother Earth for Sharing All of Your Gifts, Mother Earth, Father Sky Protect People's Park for the Children. Thunder July 06."

and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art, from which she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in photography. She moved to Oakland where she made close ties with lots of folks. She was into screen printing, live music, photography, travel, cooking, web design and riding bicycles. Her excitement for life and warm smile were infectious.

The following was written by her house mate and friend Jacqueline.

I had wonderful but brief encounters with Les. When I went to Massachusetts for her funeral, I heard stories of her childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood that together addressed the great puzzle that is the complete spirit of Les.

Les was so happy, so delighted, filled with wonder, amazement, and joy for the world and its people. We first met when she was dancing

— an immense smile upon her face. Les wrapped her arm around my shoulder and I felt

really happy as we danced at that show. At other shows I went to with her, she always had that smile on her face. When we sat and talked she was excited and exuberant. She was always eager to go; to do; and to live. She loved when

the world happened around her — and it did. Soon we became friends — inseparable. We looked out for one another and took on each other's lives and burdens.

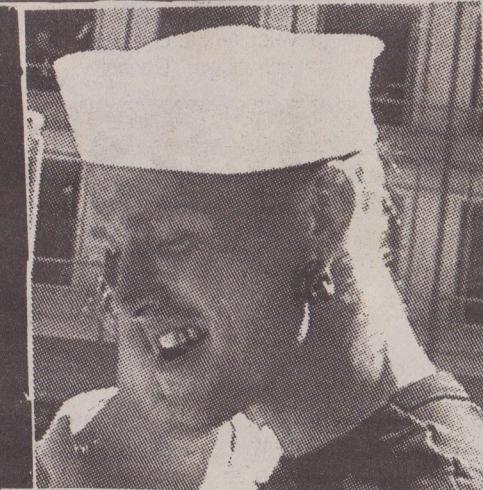
I find solace that our last encounter was a great one. While I was heading to work, Les came back for some forgotten items for her much anticipated cross-country trip. She sat on the back of the car and I on my bike. I figured I should go to work because I was running late. But hey, she was my good friend, and I would rather talk to her. We had only a few moments together then we said, "I love you — have fun". I gave her a kiss on her cheeks and I rode off. For selfish reasons I wish Les could come back, although I know that she was completely fulfilled with the life she had created for herself.

# HONZA 1974-2006

By Ashley

Honza was born Jan Chmelík in January 1974 in Ostrova, Czechoslovakia. He had a brother named Jacob (YA-koob) and a mom and dad. His family was close yet the relationship with his father was very strained. It was a case of being too much alike, perhaps. They were both very stubborn and convinced that their way of seeing and experiencing the world was the WAY.

From early on, Honza was obsessed with all things American. He wanted coke, levis and R rated movies. A case of "the grass is always greener?" Perhaps, Honza was one of a final



When I met him, I was working in a gay coffee shop in DC. I was one of the resident fag hags. I was showing off my new belly tattoo (Honza told me. I have no recollection of meeting him the first time) and forcing everyone present to check it out, Honza included. We got to chatting and he lets it out that the love interest thing didn't work out and he needed a

Honza went to his first rainbow gathering in 1994, a month after marrying me. We hitchhiked from DC to Wyoming in about four days and spent one dollar the entire way. Honza was a very thrifty Capricorn. I was his bourgeois american wife. We always had a very east vs. west dynamic. Communism vs. capitalism. M&M's vs. Lentilky. Through the Gathering Honza was further turned on to the Indigenous Peoples' scene and he became more and more involved in working with the Diné people in Arizona, especially on Big Mountain. He also spent several springs in the desert in Nevada organizing and helping with big actions against the Nevada Nuclear Test Site.

Honza preferred working gatherings to big hippy events. Honza liked to work. He had big square hands that were meant for building things — and sewing and crocheting too. We used to accuse Honza of being an old lady trapped in a cute boy's body. One of my favorite things ever would be riding in a subway in New York with him, he in his knee high Fluevogs and spiked up anarchy gear. He

sweetheart into communist dictator in nothing flat.

I'm not sure who was the one who turned Honza on to Queerupation but he was totally dedicated. The queer anarchy scene is where Honza felt the most comfortable, I believe. He believed in many hands make light work. And he was all about gender fuckery. His last community family was the anarchy queers of the Mission in San Fran. He told me many times that it was in that scene that he felt true family.

I am only able to paint a partial picture of the brilliant beauty that was Honza. He had so many loves and so many communities. I feel sort of like a cad trying to explain this beautiful soul to you when I know that there are so many others that could fill in so much more. Honza succumbed to toxoplasmosis, a crazy fungus on his brain. A totally weakened immune system made it impossible for him to fight it off. Honza had been HIV positive since the fall of 1999. He remained basically asymptomatic until the spring of 2002, when he was hospitalized for the first time in Puerto Rican

# HONZA

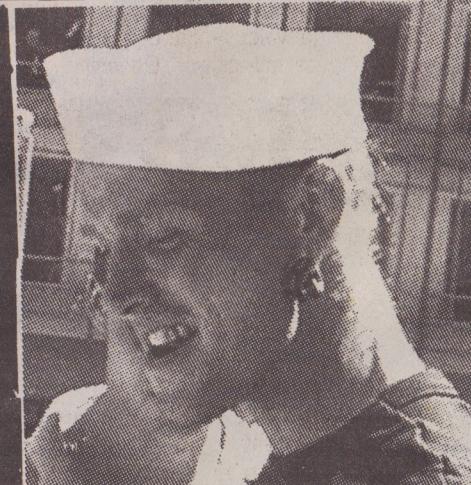
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From early on, Honza was obsessed with all things American. He wanted coke, levis and R rated movies. A case of "the grass is always greener?" Perhaps. Honza was one of a final generation of children born and raised in communist Czechoslovakia. He had an aunt and cousins who had escaped into Austria in 1968. So he was always acutely aware of what he didn't have: video games, fancy clothes and bicycles. So when the borders opened in 1989 (remember the Velvet Revolution?), Honza went west as soon as he dropped out of the Charles University.

After exploring around western Europe for a while, Honza made the big trip over the big water. He was chasing a cute boy that he fell in love with and in 1993 he found himself in Washington D.C. That's where I come in. Or at least I should explain, that is where I met Honza. And for the record, he was calling himself Jan (YAHN) then. At this stage in his life, Honza had yet to become the king of community living that many of you experienced him as. He was barely 20 years old, very romantic about life in Amerika, and he still had red cheeks for chrissakes! Needless to say, he was wet behind the ears.



When I met him, I was working in a gay coffee shop in DC. I was one of the resident fag hags. I was showing off my new belly tattoo (Honza told me. I have no recollection of meeting him the first time) and forcing everyone present to check it out, Honza included. We got to chatting and he lets it out that the love interest thing didn't work out and he needed a place to live. Well I had just moved into an amazing group house in upper northwest DC full of activists and hippies and we were looking for one more roommate. So he moves in and that was the beginning of a ten year best friendship slash committed non monogamous marriage.

We used to joke that the house on Parkwood Place was our spiritual birthplace. It was during this time that Honza learned to reject all the symbols of amerikan capitalism and greed. Through it, Honza and I connected with the rainbow family, hempsters, activists fighting nuclear everything and folks fighting for indigenous peoples' rights. Our spirit Mother, as we called her, was a feisty woman named redmoonsong that taught us the ins and outs of living in community. It was there that we learned about group process, house meetings, dumpster diving, sharing resources, walking lightly on the earth, vegetarian cooking. Consider it Alternate Lifestyle 101.

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Honza preferred working gatherings to big hippy events. Honza liked to work. He had big square hands that were meant for building things — and sewing and crocheting too. We used to accuse Honza of being an old lady trapped in a cute boy's body. One of my favorite things ever would be riding in a subway in New York with him, he in his knee high Fluevogs and spiked up anarchy gear. He pulls out his knitting projects and starts chatting with the Polish grandmas about two vs. four needles. Honza was always bonding with the old ladies. I remember having a lot of fear about Honza meeting my grandmother. She's very Christian and I thought she might reject him based on her Christian principles. Instead, they bonded instantly and traded dumpster diving secrets.

In 2000, Honza made his first trip to Short Mountain Sanctuary. I believe it's safe to say that the Sanctuary was one of the most important influences of Honza's life. Queer pagan anarchists —need I say more? Honza was completely at home there. I'll never forget our first visit. Honza was new blood and it was all about that cute blue eyed boy with the sexy fucking accent. I'll never forget the morning Honza was cooking up palachinky (Czech crepes) when he announced that he was going to feed all people who had worked that day first. He could turn from community

sweetheart into communist dictator in nothing flat.

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The last two years of his life were dedicated to resisting fascist amerika, which Honza saw reflected in cops everywhere. He transformed from a quite mild mannered knitter into a crazed police instigating speed freak (without the speed). The San Francisco cops lovingly called him THE ELEVATOR because no matter what was going down, if Honza came around, the energy of the situation elevated.

Honza's final days were amazing. His friends and family came from near and far. It was wonderful to put names with faces and to understand how far Honza spread himself out — how much of himself there was to give. I think about him everyday. The last time I went grocery shopping, I burst out into tears when I passed the Nutella. He loved that shit. Rest in Peace Honza. See you next time.

# MAKING ROOM FOR RAD CHILDREN

by Tia Mo

It seems inevitable that some radicals will have children. Our scenes aren't particularly well adapted to multiple generations, and if good communities are to develop we must find ways to integrate the young and the old into our movement. Ironically, Emma Goldman once complained that the anarchist movement was too old and needed more younger people... Now we often struggle with the reverse. Besides offering mutual aid for schooling and kid-friendly zones, there is a distance from children that many radicals maintain which we must overcome.

Kids are not homogeneous as a demographic. It's no more acceptable to dislike children than it is to dislike folks of any identity. They can't help being minors. I find that I like kids in the same ratio as folks generally: maybe 1/3 are my style. However, I try and give the little

that raising them to understand ethics and anti-oppression increases the possibility. At least they'll have the potential to make informed decisions about their worlds.

We must face our own socialized authoritarianism and repression in order to be healthy companions for children. While overcoming our own shit may be out of the question, we can still recognize it so that it does not traumatize another generation of people. Being with kids requires that we examine our own issues and find ways not to traumatize them in the ways we are hurt. Both avoidance and overemphasis of issues can cause harm. Many of us are poorly socialized around money, self-esteem, our bodies, sex, relationships, competence, success and failure, work and play, and authority. Communicating our own insufficiencies is often enough to avoid these pitfalls. Admitting that we don't have the answers or that boundaries sometimes arise from irrational fear lets kids know that we are figuring it out and they can explore their own answers. Vulnerability is a great gift to a child. It communicates security and possibility. Learning to do this with kids could help improve our other relationships as well.

Before even attempting to borrow a kid for two hours, it's good to think about the stuff that will probably come up for you. The people who raised us are models for us as caregivers, and we can choose to imitate or reject their strategies. Knowing what you need and can accept is crucial. For instance, what are your physical boundaries? Are you okay wrestling, changing a diaper, or curling up to read a story? Wiping noses? Wiping butts? How would you react if a kid who's still nursing tried to pull up your shirt? Think about how you react to being naked and how you could tell a kid why some other people aren't okay with it. Again, communicating your boundaries, even if

own ideas about how it's okay to treat others. You can also model directly a better response than they know or have seen. If a kid acts out in ways that are harmful or oppressive (and I've seen two year olds do this), then it's necessary to confront with both reasons and alternatives.

Besides understanding your own ideas about kids and their world, you need to find out specifically what your borrowed kid is up to. Check in with primary caregivers to find out if there are safety/health issues or personality stuff to know about. Knowing schedules, food preferences, naptimes, and favorite distractions can make looking after a kid a lot

My generation kept driving everywhere even after we knew it was causing global warming — so have fun starving to death!



more feasible. It can be a long walk from the park to the comic book store, and it's easier to ask than guess.

Supporting children also involves supporting their regular caregivers. Giving a break to mamas and papas so that they can go dancing, or even just take a shower alone, helps them re-energize. Cooking dinner, doing a school or daycare pickup, or arranging a few kids together for a playdate gives the

will explore, master, regress and integrate new skills, whether physical, emotional or intellectual. We need to let kids be where they are, instead of chastising them for all of a sudden being shy, modest, or outspoken. Chances are, things will change in a few months and they'll be in a new place again.

Deciding to be an ally to children is about empowering them to do the things that interest and challenge them. We must create safe places (physically and socially) for kids to explore, and present alternatives to the marketing machine that informs lots of childrearing. Teach them to sew instead of shopping for clothes; make ice cream instead of buying sweets; and head out for a hike instead of the astroturf playground. The most memorable times from my childhood have nothing to do with things people bought me; they are the times I spent with people who cared for me.

Besides countering the influence of mainstream culture, we should interact with kids so that they realize that each relationship they have will be different. Moms and dads and housemates and ti@s will all bring different gifts and expectations. Being adaptable is very useful in our world of appearances. Avoiding normalization of master/servant roles and creating paradigms of reciprocity helps kids avoid stagnant expectations as they explore the world. There are lots of acceptable ways to communicate and interact, which we can share with the young ones.

So, if you haven't hung out with someone under 10 since you were that young yourself, start imagining a day of climbing trees and chasing butterflies (or video games and the library). There's a radical families listserve for San Francisco, and it would be great if more folks without kids found ways to join



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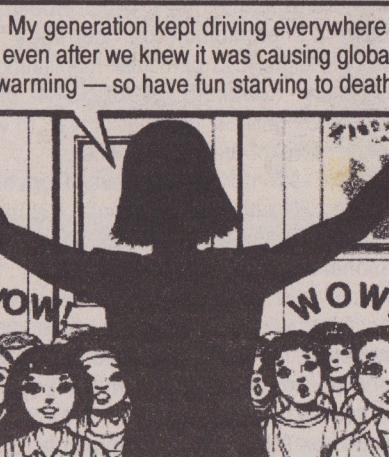
spuds a chance before I exercise my free association and split. There's no tacit permission that should allow any of us to avoid interacting with the kids in our communities. In fact, they need us all the more given the barrage of capitalist and statist propaganda dumped on them by media, school and, often, extended families. While there is no guarantee that kids will become anarchists, we can hope

traumatize them in the ways we are hurt. Both avoidance and overemphasis of issues can cause harm. Many of us are poorly socialized around money, self-esteem, our bodies, sex, relationships, competence, success and failure, work and play, and authority. Communicating our own insufficiencies is often enough to avoid these pitfalls. Admitting that we don't have the answers or that boundaries sometimes arise from irrational fear lets kids know that we are figuring it out and they can explore their own answers. Vulnerability is a great gift to a child. It communicates security and possibility. Learning to do this with kids could help improve our other relationships as well.

Before even attempting to borrow a kid for two hours, it's good to think about the stuff that will probably come up for you. The people who raised us are models for us as caregivers, and we can choose to imitate or reject their strategies. Knowing what you need and can accept is crucial. For instance, what are your physical boundaries? Are you okay wrestling, changing a diaper, or curling up to read a story? Wiping noses? Wiping butts? How would you react if a kid who's still nursing tried to pull up your shirt? Think about how you react to being naked and how you could tell a kid why some other people aren't okay with it. Again, communicating your boundaries, even if they are different than what a kid is accustomed to, should make things smoother.

Kids are incredibly astute and can process a lot of "mature" concerns. Addressing racism when you see it with kids, or any other oppressive behavior, helps them develop their

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If you know a kid for at least six months, you'll probably witness them transition through another developmental phase. Adults have similar cycles, only slower. Generally, kids

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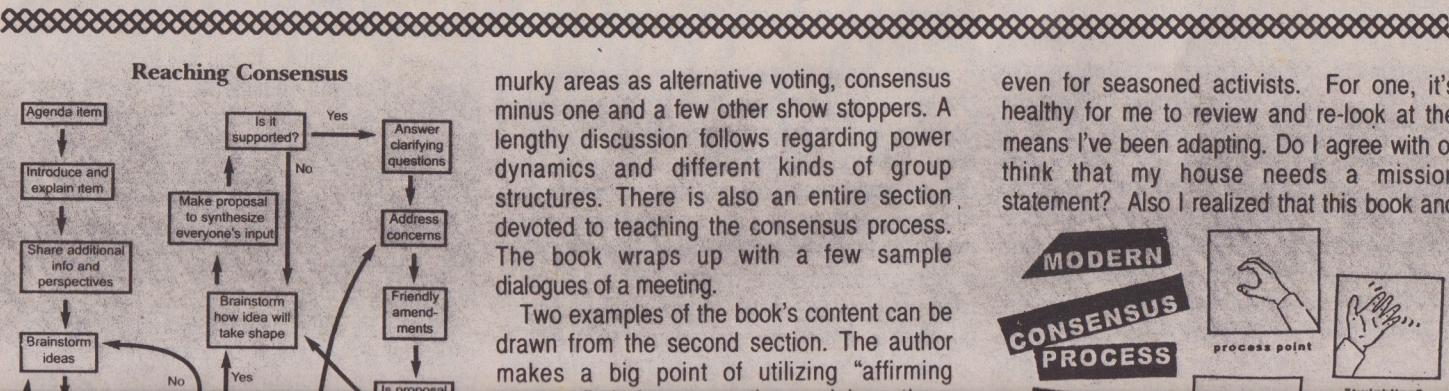
So, if you haven't hung out with someone under 10 since you were that young yourself, start imagining a day of climbing trees and chasing butterflies (or video games and the library). There's a radical families listserve for San Francisco, and it would be great if more folks without kids found ways to be involved with planning and support. It takes time to get involved in a child's life, but it may be the coolest thing you ever do. Maybe your neighbor has a kid you can borrow. Because after all, it takes an affinity group to raise a child.

## We read it for you Book Review: Consensus decision making

### Consensus: A New Handbook For Grassroots Social, Political, And Environmental Groups By Peter Gelderloos (See Sharp Press 2006)

By Robert's Rules of Eggplant

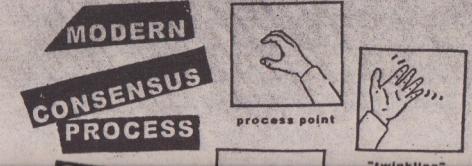
This 120 page journey will strike a reader of any experience level as a simple approach on how to go about a difficult thing — conducting a group meeting. It describes not just any



murky areas as alternative voting, consensus minus one and a few other show stoppers. A lengthy discussion follows regarding power dynamics and different kinds of group structures. There is also an entire section devoted to teaching the consensus process. The book wraps up with a few sample dialogues of a meeting.

Two examples of the book's content can be drawn from the second section. The author makes a big point of utilizing "affirming

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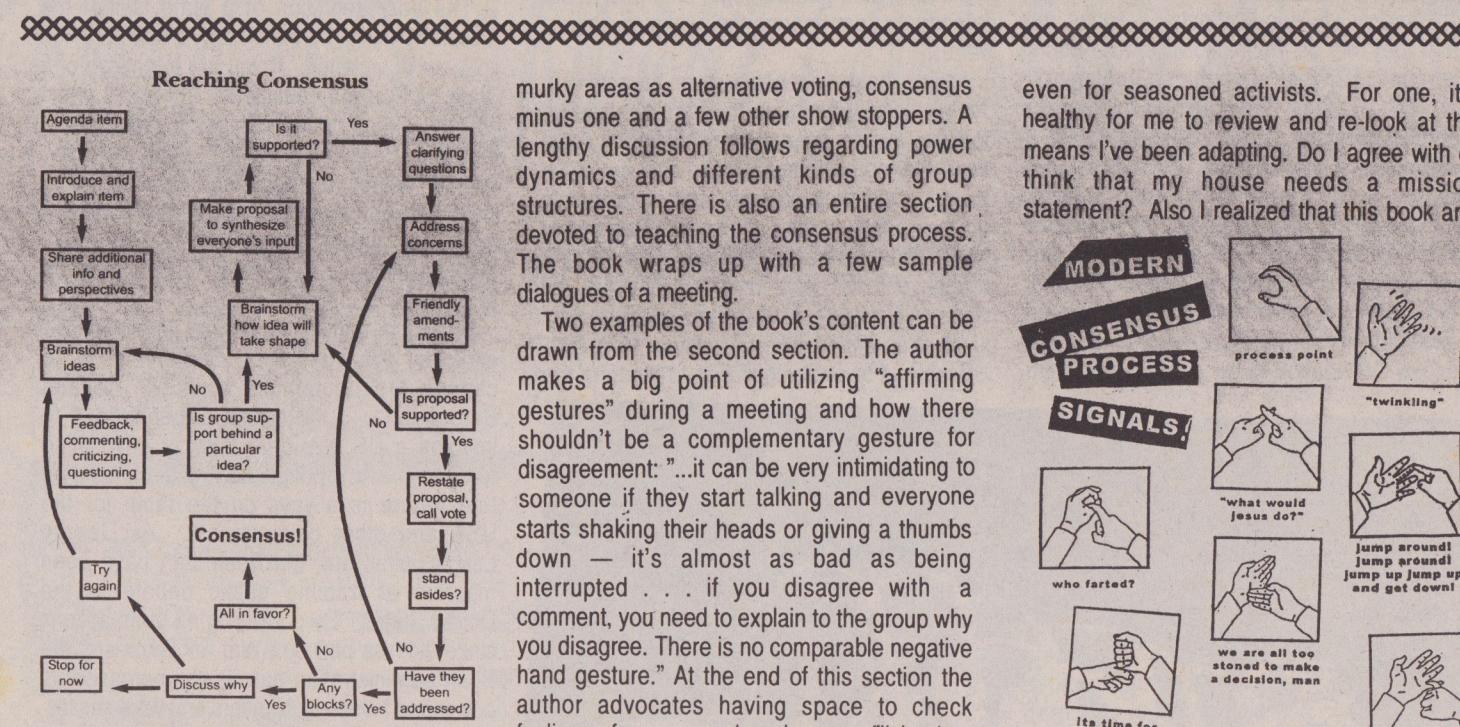
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This 120 page journey will strike a reader of any experience level as a simple approach on how to go about a difficult thing — conducting a group meeting. It describes not just any dreaded meeting but a meeting based on consensus, which the author considers the most fair and democratic.

Years ago, I was excited to dumpster score a hard cover copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* from the library. In my naiveté, I ran with it to my local infoshop to show off what gems get passed off as garbage these days. The response I got was less than thrilled: "Oh that — that's what the enemy uses to keep us down," I was told. *Robert's Rules of Order*, the antithesis of consensus, has its history in the post Gold Rush San Francisco and the particularly raucous and chaotic meetings that would go down then. That little 19th century organizer would go on to institutionalize alienation and public ill from the White House to City Council meetings in the present age.

Gelderloos' book addresses the power discrepancies we live under, learning these techniques from years of work creating and perfecting consensus. His own experience includes working with Copwatch, Food Not Bombs, anti-war campaigns, prisoner support and prison abolition. He has also authored the book, *How Nonviolence Protects the State*.



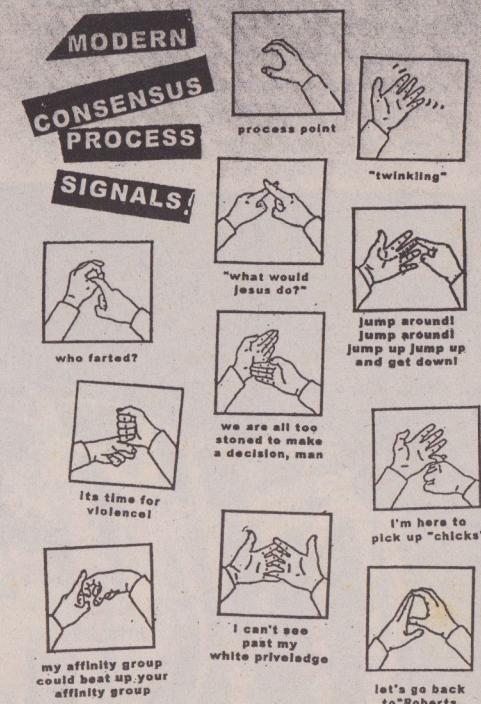
The book opens with Food Not Bombs founder Keith McHenry, where he lays out the non-hierarchical bag. Like the rest of the information that follows, it's readable and hardly contestable. First, Gelderloos defines terms and delineates the steps in a consensus decision. He then explains the roles such as facilitator and time keeper, and makes suggestions on how to make things run smoothly. Much of the information in the book is suggestive so that readers can adapt the processes to fit their own situations. In addition to meeting minutiae, the author looks at the larger meeting structure, including such

murky areas as alternative voting, consensus minus one and a few other show stoppers. A lengthy discussion follows regarding power dynamics and different kinds of group structures. There is also an entire section devoted to teaching the consensus process. The book wraps up with a few sample dialogues of a meeting.

Two examples of the book's content can be drawn from the second section. The author makes a big point of utilizing "affirming gestures" during a meeting and how there shouldn't be a complementary gesture for disagreement: "...it can be very intimidating to someone if they start talking and everyone starts shaking their heads or giving a thumbs down — it's almost as bad as being interrupted . . . if you disagree with a comment, you need to explain to the group why you disagree. There is no comparable negative hand gesture." At the end of this section the author advocates having space to check feelings of group members because "living in a patriarchal society, we are taught to minimize feelings." And that "You don't have to be able to articulate the difference between CNT anarchists and Tolstoyan anarchists to trash an Army recruiting office. Good analysis is necessary for creating an effective strategy, but building cohesive groups and a strong movement requires a great deal of social skills and emotional intelligence. Activists lack these skills because we don't even recognize their importance."

Much of this information will be old news to your average *Slingshot* reader but while sitting with this book I was struck by its value

even for seasoned activists. For one, it's healthy for me to review and re-look at the means I've been adapting. Do I agree with or think that my house needs a mission statement? Also I realized that this book and



others like the *Organizer's Manual* from 1970, are good to share with members of projects that I'm working on, lest I just assume we are on the same page. Finally, they can be used as reference, comic relief during an anarchist study group, or ignored by much of the consumer sheep.

# U.S. REGIME INSISTS ON TORTURE HOCUS POCUS -

Continued from page 1

made by a few bad apples. CIA interrogators had to receive written permission to use each technique from the deputy director for operations for the CIA. A cable had to be sent and a reply received each time a progressively harsher technique was used.

All of the al Qaeda suspects subject to these methods eventually "broke" and provided information. However, the information wasn't always correct. Ibn al Shaykh al Libbi, after enduring all of the above methods, finally broke after being water boarded and then left to stand naked in his cold cell overnight where he was doused with cold water at regular intervals. He told his tormentors what he thought they wanted to hear — that Iraq had trained al Qaeda members to use biochemical weapons. Bush used the confession to justify attacking Iraq. It later became clear that al Libbi had no knowledge of such training or weapons and fabricated the statements because he was terrified of further harsh treatment.

At least three prisoners died after being subjected to the Bush torture techniques. One detainee died of hypothermia in Afghanistan at a mud fort dubbed the "salt pit" that was used as a prison. The prisoner was left to stand naked throughout the harsh Afghanistan night after being doused with cold water. Another CIA detainee died in Iraq and a third detainee died following harsh interrogation by Department of Defense personnel and contractors in Iraq.

Bush has argued that it is okay for the USA to use "tough methods" because the world has changed since 9/11. As Professor Yoo put it: "When you're fighting a new kind of war against an enemy we haven't faced before, our

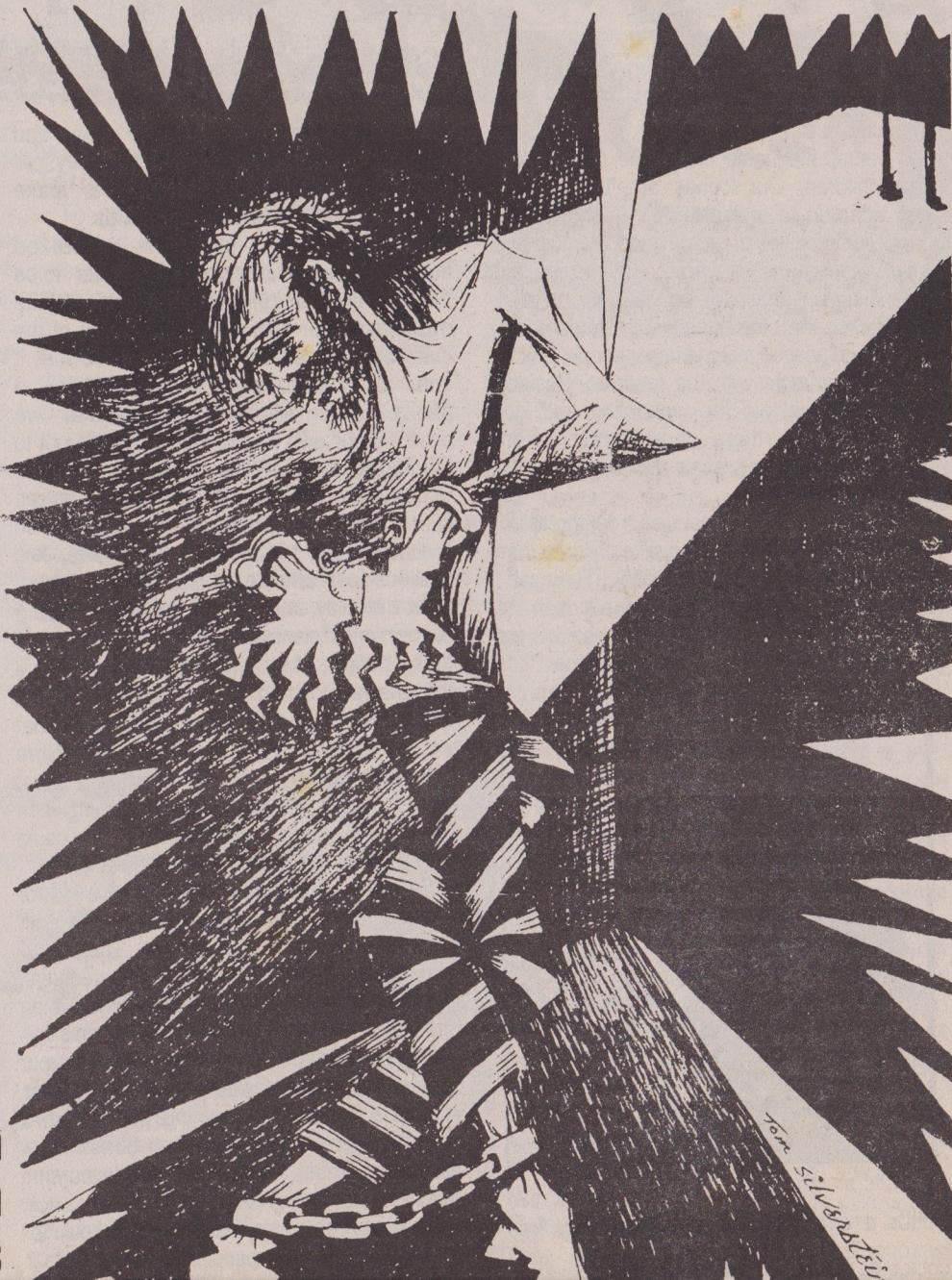
universally accepted legal standard. Bush sends a strong message by proving that such an "old world," "pre-9/11" standard is irrelevant in the War on Terror.

Politically, the USA right-wing eats this "tough guy" stuff up. Right-wing talk radio shows are filled with contempt for weak, traitorous liberals who want to invoke silly laws to protect the rights of terrorists. When 2008 Republican presidential candidate John McCain recently opposed the president's attempt to re-interpret the Geneva Convention, he was attacked as soft on terror by the right wing of the Republican party.

It should be noted that the argument over Article 3 of the Geneva Convention already accepts Bush's contention that anyone accused of being a member of al Qaeda is not a "prisoner of war" under the Geneva Convention. Article 3 is the lowest standard in the Geneva Convention. Bush doesn't like Article 3's prohibition on "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment." Article 4 of the Convention defines "prisoner of war" to whom a higher level of protection applies.

Article 17 of the Geneva Convention provides: "No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind." The whole discussion of torture hasn't even touched on Article 17 because the mainstream USA political establishment has accepted Bush's refusal to consider terror suspects as "prisoners of war." This is a war on terror in

THERE GOES HABEAS CORPUS!



**Before 9/11, it would have been hard to imagine a US president publicly advocating torture — even though history demonstrates that torture is always**

# U.S. REGIME INSISTS ON TORTURE *Hocus Focus*

Continued from page 1

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Bush has argued that it is okay for the USA to use "tough methods" because the world has changed since 9/11. As Professor Yoo put it: "When you're fighting a new kind of war against an enemy we haven't faced before, our

universally accepted legal standard. Bush sends a strong message by proving that such an "old world," "pre-911" standard is irrelevant in the War on Terror.

Politically, the USA right-wing eats this "tough guy" stuff up. Right-wing talk radio shows are filled with contempt for weak, traitorous liberals who want to invoke silly laws to protect the rights of terrorists. When 2008 Republican presidential candidate John McCain recently opposed the president's attempt to re-interpret the Geneva Convention, he was attacked as soft on terror by the right wing of the Republican party.

It should be noted that the argument over Article 3 of the Geneva Convention already accepts Bush's contention that anyone accused of being a member of al Qaeda is not a "prisoner of war" under the Geneva Convention. Article 3 is the lowest standard in the Geneva Convention. Bush doesn't like Article 3's prohibition on "outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment." Article 4 of the Convention defines "prisoner of war" to whom a higher level of protection applies.

Article 17 of the Geneva Convention provides: "No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind." The whole discussion of torture hasn't even touched on Article 17 because the mainstream USA political establishment has accepted Bush's refusal to consider terror suspects as "prisoners of war." This is a war on terror in

**Before 9/11, it would have been hard to imagine a US president publicly advocating torture — even though history demonstrates that torture is always on the table for the USA**

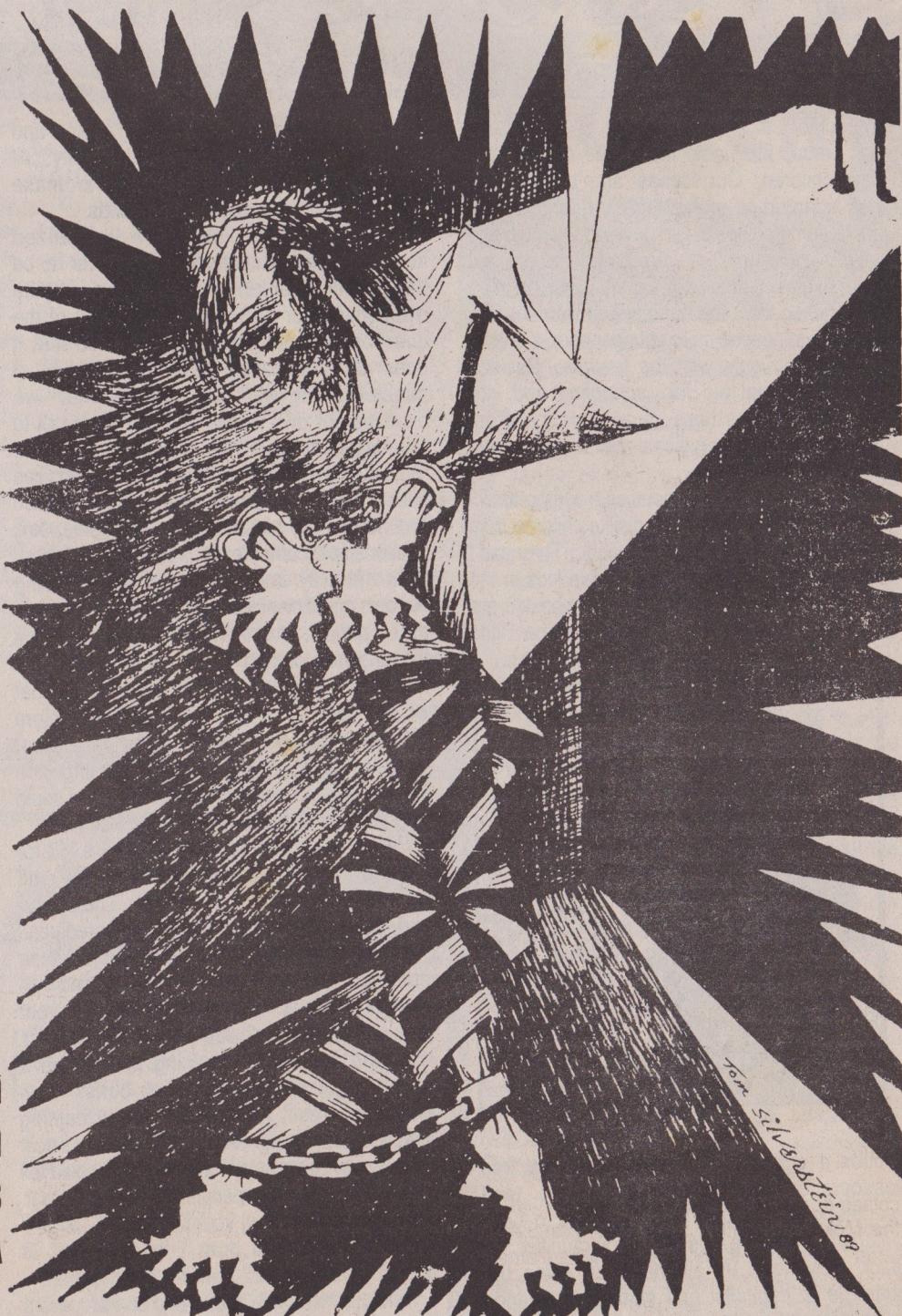
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In addition to torture, Bush sought and

## THERE GOES HABEAS CORPUS!



system needs to give flexibility to people to respond to those challenges."

Bush asserts that since the USA are the good guys, no matter what the USA does in the name of national security is okay. Bush claims that only terrorists will be abused, but since Bush has reserved the power to unilaterally define who is a terrorist — whereupon they may be imprisoned for long periods without any court hearing — the shift on discussion of torture applies to everyone. The government has labeled activists charged with arsons as "eco-terrorists" — does this mean they will be subjected to torture during interrogation? What about harsh treatment?

Some suspect that Bush's public and vigorous defense of abusive questioning is more about a power grab and politics than torture. Since torture is (at least publicly) considered so unacceptable by "civilized" societies, Bush can prove that he wields absolute power by getting Congress to pass legislation to re-interpret the Geneva Convention to permit Bush's activities. The Geneva Convention is an easily recognized,

which the USA takes no prisoners.

In addition to torture, Bush sought and partially won other legal changes which are also totally contrary to the American legal tradition. For instance, as of this writing, he apparently won legislation to permit military trials of terror suspects that would allow the use of evidence obtained under torture or torture-like coercion. He sought but apparently didn't obtain legal changes to bar defendants from hearing the evidence against them.

Again, these proposals were attractive to Bush precisely because they are considered barbaric by the international community, the press, the legal community, and liberals. Bush doesn't need their support, and he wants to rub their noses in their utter powerlessness to protect basic legal standards they thought were beyond his reach. Bush has the NASCAR nation on his side, and who gives a fuck about a bunch of un-armed college professor wimps?

Bush had to seek legislation to overturn the

Supreme Court's ruling in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* in which the court ruled that the Geneva Conventions protected prisoners labeled as terrorists by Bush. The introduction of Bush's legislation states "the Geneva Conventions are not a source of judicially enforceable individual rights."

The very definition of a state is that the people running the state have a monopoly on the use of violence. If you are in charge of a state, you aren't considered a terrorist when you kill, injure or take hostages (prisoners). In fact, if you are at the top of a state hierarchy, you can define your opponents as terrorists or criminals and based on that definition, you can do to the "terrorists" precisely the same acts that you claim makes them terrorists in the first place.

The Bush administration and its allies have exploited the attacks on September 11 to change the boundaries of public debate. Before 9/11, it would have been hard to imagine a US president publicly advocating torture — even though history demonstrates that torture is always on the table for the USA and other governments. As George Lakoff points out, the Bush clan have been masters at framing public debate in the United States. By portraying all of its actions since 9/11 as part of a War on Terrorism, the Bush administration has vastly increased its power and hidden its blunders and weaknesses. By claiming the USA is in a war, terror suspects become the enemy — dehumanized and deserving of any treatment the Bush crew can think up.

Liberals who support the basic idea of government, hierarchy and authority hope they can swing back the pendulum on Bush's power grab and put torture back in its Pandora's box. They would rather discussion of torture be taken off the table — but they are happy to maintain the CIA, the army, and police as long as the violence implicit in these structures are kept better hidden.

Radicals understand the debate on torture differently. States and power structures

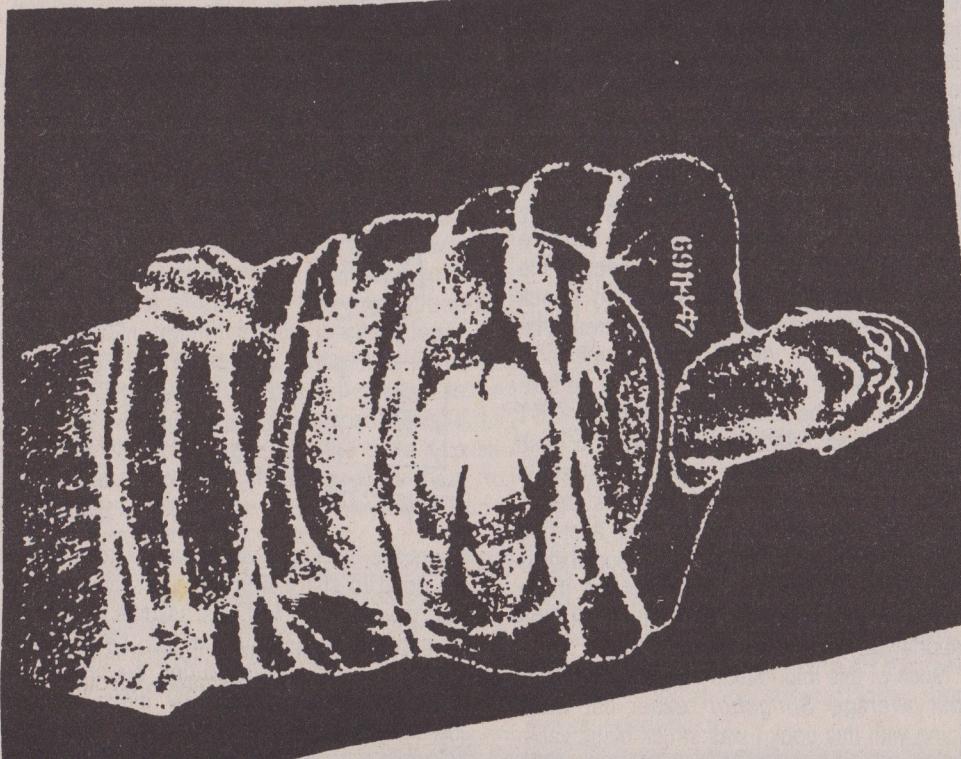
always reserve the ability to torture and kill — that is the vital foundation necessary to maintain the gross power inequality that permits America and a few privileged people to dominate and exploit the rest of the world.

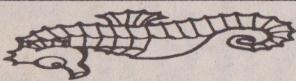
The open discussion of torture exposes uncomfortable questions that radicals want to raise: why are some lives worth more than others and why do a few people get to decide what happens to everyone else? How is it that Americans, composing 5 percent of the world's population, use 25 percent of the world's resources? Why is it that violence is okay for the rulers, but any resistance is terrorism? If there is a struggle for the survival of the American way of life, is this way of life just or fair? Or is the American way of life based on theft, fear, and murder?

We decry Bush's torture but torture is just the tip of the iceberg — the most acute expression of a system with bosses and workers, owners and tenants, police and citizens. The ultimate struggle remains to tear down the structures that carry out the everyday, business as usual oppression on which this society is founded.

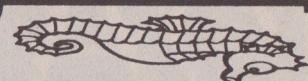
#### Postscript

It is odd that John Yoo, the primary legal architect of the Bush policy of worldwide torture and of Bush's use of "signing statements" to place himself above the Law, is a law professor at UC Berkeley, only about one mile from where this article is being written. An alliance of Bay Area organizations are sponsoring a weekly "Teach-In And Vigil Against American Torture And The Dictatorial Presidency" in front of Boalt Hall Law school every Tuesday between 12:30 and 1:30 from now until December 21. According to their literature "We do not seek to limit Prof. Yoo's academic freedom, but we will exercise our own free rights to hold vigils and teach-ins expressing our strong moral objection to the torture and unlimited presidential powers that he advocates." If you're in Berkeley, check them out at the corner of College Ave and Bancroft.





# PUT THAT BOTTLE DOWN!



by Magnolia

In the last decade, the bottled water industry, thanks to an onslaught of heavy handed marketing tactics, has turned into a \$35 billion global business. Looking for a refreshing drink? Head to the nearest corner store or cafe and they'll sell you water in a plastic bottle for \$1.00 or more. What has brought about this enormous change in the way we drink water, a substance necessary for survival? Water has turned into a huge industry with the world's most powerful multinationals such as Pepsi, Coke, and Nestle all vying to quench your thirst.

Remember those days when we used to fill our glasses from the kitchen or even the bathroom sink? Due to an industry campaign to incite fear of tap water into the masses, many have turned to water filters, and increasingly, individual plastic bottles of water and boxed water by the case, shrink wrapped in more plastic that will take thousands of years to break down.

In most first world nations where there are strict tap water regulations, thus it is unnecessary to buy bottled water. While it may be convenient due to the lack of public drinking fountains, people did just fine until a few years ago finding a cup of water. Now that the marketing and availability of bottled water is everywhere, it's hard to avoid bottled water when you're out and would prefer water to a soft drink or juice. It is far better from an economic, environmental, and public health point of view to improve public drinking water supplies than it is to have a massive societal shift from consumer use of tap water to use of bottled water.

## What's in tap water?

The fear of contaminants in our water is one major reason people are buying bottled water. Here in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area, the majority of our drinking water comes from EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility District). Ninety percent of EBMUD's water

reports under the California Safe Drinking Water Act. These disclosures list all the constituents found within the drinking water provided by the local municipality.

## What's in Bottled Water?

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. However the EPA does not regulate contaminants in bottled water. Water bottlers are not required to test for the presence of E. coli, cryptosporidium, giardia, asbestos, or certain organic compounds such as benzenes. Instead, bottled water is regulated under weaker Food and Drug Administration standards.

The National Resource Defense Council tested 1000 bottles of water and concluded that there is no assurance that water out of a bottle is any cleaner or safer than water from the tap. And in fact, an estimated 25 percent or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle — sometimes further treated, sometimes not.

## Used to be free

**Now it cost you a fee  
'cause it's all about  
getting that cash money**

**-Mos Def,  
New World Water**

PepsiCo's Aquafina is just heavily filtered water — not spring water or glacier water or geyser water, just water — and Coke's Dasani is the same with a blend of minerals added back in for taste. In fact, Coke recently ran afoul of the FDA for billing Dasani as purified water; thanks to the added minerals, it now meets the labeling requirement.

Many bottles of water show images of healthy, active people or the Alps and Rockies and every other mountain range covered with

decentralized use of local resources for local purposes with an centralized, corporate-controlled, industrial system on a global scale.

The World Wildlife Fund estimates that around 1.5 million tons of plastic are used globally each year in water bottles, creating a sizable manufacturing footprint. Most water bottles are made of the oil-derived polyethylene terephthalate, which is known as PET. While PET is less toxic than many plastics, the Berkeley Ecology Center found that manufacturing PET generates more than 100 times the toxic emissions — in the form of nickel, ethylbenzene, ethylene oxide and

environmental regulations. Even when they are recycled, they are merely turned into another plastic item, often using large amount of virgin resources in the process.

## The Developing world

This article's concentration on "first world water" aims to expose the role of the corporate beverage industry without downplaying the degree to which actual polluted water sources affect many areas of the world, the United States included.

Developing countries are facing grave consequences from bottled water. With a wide availability of bottled water, municipal water



benzene — compared to making the same amount of glass. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that, in one year, supplying thirsty Americans with water bottles consumes more than 1.5 million barrels of oil.

According to the Beverage Marketing Corporation, the US bottled water industry sold 6.8 billion gallons of water in 2004. Most was moved by trucks burning massive quantities of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming. Global sales of bottled water was 41 billion gallons for 2004. Over 22 million tons of bottled water is transferred every year between different countries.

Ironically, making all that plastic and refining all that oil contributes to water pollution that makes people scared to drink tap water in the first place.

Moreover, bottled water generates massive amounts of trash. According to the Container Recycling Institute, nine out of 10 plastic water bottles in the US end up as either

standards are not improving as they should. Water remains dangerous in many areas around the world. The governments use the availability of bottled water as an excuse when in truth the average person cannot afford to live off bottled water. When this happens, water turns into a luxury to be bought and sold instead of a necessity for life. This is to say nothing about multi-national attempts to privatize even tap water in the developing world — that will have to wait for another article. This is the real danger of bottled water.

## What you can do.

\*Contact your local municipal water source and ask for a water quality report so you can find out the truth about your local water. You

**DASANI added  
Minerals to  
Meet the FDA**

water by the case, shrink wrapped in more plastic that will take thousands of years to break down.

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The fear of contaminants in our water is one major reason people are buying bottled water. Here in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area, the majority of our drinking water comes from EBMUD (East Bay Municipal Utility District). Ninety percent of EBMUD's water comes from the 577 square mile watershed of the Mokelumne River, which collects Sierra Nevada snow melt and flows into the Pardee Reservoir near the town of Valley Springs. According to the 2005 EBMUD Water Quality Report, the Sierra watershed is mostly undeveloped land, little affected by human activity. It is also protected from pesticides, agricultural and urban runoff, municipal sewage and industrial discharges. Unlike bottled water manufacturers, California municipalities are required to file annual

bottle is any cleaner or safer than water from the tap. And in fact, an estimated 25 percent or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle — sometimes further treated, sometimes not.

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Many bottles of water show images of healthy, active people or the Alps and Rockies and every other mountain range covered with pure white snow. Most bottled water does not actually come from these pristine sources. Check the bottle label or cap to see if it comes "from a municipal source" or "from a community water system".

### Environmental damage

Supplying drinking water in plastic bottles rather than through existing plumbing systems requires vast quantities of natural resources to manufacture the plastic bottles and then to move heavy shipments of water bottles from place to place. Bottled water replaces the

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Moreover, bottled water generates massive amounts of trash. According to the Container Recycling Institute, nine out of 10 plastic water bottles in the US end up as either garbage or litter — at a rate of 30 million per day. According to the Climate Action Network, when plastic bottles are incinerated along with other trash, as is the practice in many municipalities, toxic chlorine (and potentially dioxin) is released into the air while heavy metals deposit in the ash. Plastic water bottle litter can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

Recycling water bottles is difficult because plastic loses quality during recycling. As a result, most bottles collected for recycling in the US are shipped to Asia to avoid

standards are not improving as they should. Water remains dangerous in many areas around the world. The governments use the availability of bottled water as an excuse when in truth the average person cannot afford to live off bottled water. When this happens, water turns into a luxury to be bought and sold instead of a necessity for life. This is to say nothing about multi-national attempts to privatize even tap water in the developing world — that will have to wait for another article. This is the real danger of bottled water.

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might be surprised how much more quality control the water coming out of your tap has than bottled water.

\*Get a handy beverage holder that you can take around with you so you don't have to shell out the cash for a bottle of water when you're thirsty.

\*Be aware that in large part, bottled water is a marketing ploy by international beverage companies to make more money.



By Kirsten Anderberg

If you are still using disposable menstrual pads or tampons, you might as well be drinking out of non-biodegradable styrofoam cups! Tampons and disposable menstrual products are unnecessary trash. If you are

Seventh Generation, have emerged on the market. This is definitely a move in the right direction, except they are still one-use products, and their high price is cost-

like Big Brother is here to sell you "protection" from your own body fluids. By acting like menstrual fluids are toxic, women are degraded and belittled. In addition to the industry, several religions have heavy dogmas around menstruating women, such as sexual

chemicals, bleach, and synthetic fibers that can cut up your vagina and vulva like little strands of glass. Some people argue menstrual fluids are supposed to flow out of us, not be blocked up inside with a tampon...and thus prefer pads. Some of them also think that for a "natural"

Reservoir near the town of Valley Springs. According to the 2005 EBMUD Water Quality Report, the Sierra watershed is mostly undeveloped land, little affected by human activity. It is also protected from pesticides, agricultural and urban runoff, municipal sewage and industrial discharges. Unlike bottled water manufacturers, California municipalities are required to file annual

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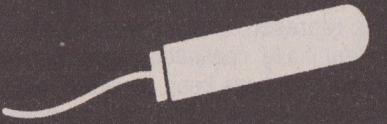
If you are still using disposable menstrual pads or tampons, you might as well be drinking out of non-biodegradable styrofoam cups! Tampons and disposable menstrual products are unnecessary trash. If you are environmentally conscious, you should quit using them today! There are many reasons to stop using disposable menstrual products--environmental health, anti-consumerism, anti-corporate control of our body, health, feminism, women's body esteem, and more.

In the zine "Let's Forget Everything We Learned About Being A Girl...Bloodsisters of the World...Unite and Take Over!" (which was made as part of the Belladonna DIY Fest '04), they write, "over 12 billion pads and 7 million tampons are used once and disposed of annually, and that 170,000 tampon applicators were collected along the US coastal areas between 1998 and 1999." They also said that in California, it is illegal to feed the leaves, stems or short fibers of cotton to livestock due to pesticide residue, but this cotton is instead allowed to be made into tampons, mattresses, cotton balls. If it's not good enough for cows to eat, why would you want it in your cunt?

In recent years, biodegradable cotton menstrual products, made by companies like

Seventh Generation, have emerged on the market. This is definitely a move in the right direction, except they are still one-use products, and their high price is cost-

#### Not intended for human consumption



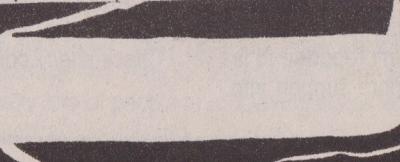
prohibitive for many women. Most women still do not use their own cloth pads, like their grannies did. Yet women continue to bleed monthly, and the landfills are piled high with non-biodegradable tampons and pads full of blood. There are more conscious ways to deal with our menstrual blood and the environment.

Before the "sanitary protection" industry was created, women used absorbent materials such as moss, sponges, and cloth for their menstrual flows, for thousands of years. Most likely, your granny used cloth pads, not corporate disposable "protection." The "sanitary protection" industry speaks about menstruation as if it is something women should dread, abhor, fear and hide. They act

like Big Brother is here to sell you "protection" from your own body fluids. By acting like menstrual fluids are toxic, women are degraded and belittled. In addition to the industry, several religions have heavy dogmas around menstruating women, such as sexual taboos, food preparation taboos, etc. In American culture, we teach girls and women that their genitals should not be aggrandized or symbolized in any manner outside of the control of the porn or sanitary protection industries!

Buying disposable menses products is a form of consumerism, and most menses products come from big corporations. Why support more big corporations via your menses? Why consume unnecessarily? Sanitary protection corporations and industries have profited by exploiting women's body esteem insecurities. You can choose not to support them.

Health is another reason to give up commercial menstrual products. Disposable tampons and pads very often are full of weird



chemicals, bleach, and synthetic fibers that can cut up your vagina and vulva like little strands of glass. Some people argue menstrual fluids are supposed to flow out of us, not be blocked up inside with a tampon...and thus prefer pads. I am of this school, that feels "corking" your menstrual flow is not optimum. I feel it best to just bond with women everywhere all over the planet forever, and to honor my flow. You should do what works for you.

You can easily make your own cloth pads. I often just rip up strips of flannel, fold them into a rectangle a few folds thick, sew the edges if you want to, and they're ready to use. In an emergency, you can fold a tube sock in half! But you can also buy really nice pre-made cloth, reusable, menstrual pads from companies such as Many Moons, Pandora Pads, Lotus Pads and others.

Cotton menstrual pads are a good gift to give young girls you know who are just beginning to menstruate. A gift like that can help start girls off in a direction of honoring the menses flow, rather than pretending nothing is happening. Be proud of your blood. It is not toxic. It is not shameful. You do not need protection or sanitation. You just need washable cotton pads!

Read Kirsten at [www.kirstenanderberg.com](http://www.kirstenanderberg.com)

# OAXACA: uprising renders

Continued from page 1



Oaxaca, the average person spends only 5.6 years in school, two years less than the national average. The conditions in the rural schools are extremely poor, with a lack of basic infrastructure. Children often come to school hungry, barefoot and are without desks, books, and pencils. For the past 26 years, Section 22 of the National Union of Education Workers has held an annual statewide strike. Some of the demands this year included raises, basic supplies and breakfast for the students. Each year the teachers camp out in the main square of Oaxaca city until an adequate compromise is reached. This year things played out a little differently. At 4:30am on June 14, while teachers and their families were sleeping, 3000 police raided the encampment; a helicopter fired tear gas, and cops beat people and burnt their belongings, leaving over 100 people injured. The teachers resisted with sticks and rocks, reclaiming the square

covering the design of a new state constitution, creating democracy from below, movement inclusion and respect for diversity. The rich history of the people organizing in this fashion was clear to me as I sat in the back row in a room of over a thousand, watching decisions being made efficiently. Since the formation of APPO, a clear consensus decision was made to change the primary demand from those of the teachers' to the resignation of the Governor of Oaxaca, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. They make this demand because of his responsibility in the violent repression of their democratic teachers' strike, because he came to power through fraud, and because as governor he has favored corporate interests and undermined social organizations.

Corrupt, exploitative governments are nothing new to Oaxaca or Mexico. In fact, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), made up of the conservative right, light skinned, wealthy class, has monopolized the governorship of Oaxaca for the past 80 years



and national government for over 70 years, prior to the current President Vicente Fox's rule. There were hopes for Fox to step out of the traditional exploitative role but his party, the National Action Party (PAN), has carried on the PRI legacy of neoliberal expansion, corruption, and repression of social organizations.

With help from the leaders of the Central



commodifying their culture for the tourist industry. One of the projects with huge implications for Oaxaca is the creation of a super highway at Mexico's skinniest point, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in order to move resources more readily across the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This transportation corridor will be lined with sweatshops, without labor or environmental laws. "For all of these objectives, the government of Oaxaca is key to the realization of the project," explained Florentino.

Ulises Ruiz Ortiz is a carbon copy of the most corrupt PRI leadership, which exploits and represses the majority indigenous population. PRI serves the interests of foreign corporations—a perfect match to prepare the region for the implementation of the PPP. Unable to be elected democratically, Ulises stole his position through vote buying, ballot box tampering, and computer fraud. On December 1, 2004, his first day as governor, 40 armed men including PRI municipal leaders with police support occupied the *Noticias*, a

on August 10. With only one day's notice, I was shocked to find over 20,000 people at the gathering point. Half way through the march I decided to skip over a few blocks and try to get further ahead, closer to the front of the march. As I ran around the block to rejoin the masses, I heard shots ring out, and I was suddenly joined by others running to get closer to the front. When we arrived, the march was at a standstill and chaos abounded. In front of me a 50 year old woman picked up a piece of concrete and was dropping it on the curb to make smaller rocks. I realized people were scrambling to pick up sticks and rocks for defense, and some were running for cover in a nearby church. A man lay dead in the street. Government goons had shot randomly into the



"Long live the struggle of the Oppressed People. In support of Palestinian People."

crowd, killing José Jimenez Colmenares, a mechanic and the husband of a teacher. Clearly this was meant to intimidate and create fear. Yet, the movement remains dedicated to not taking up arms. Instead APPO has used the main strategies of creating a situation of ungovernability in Oaxaca, preventing the state government from meeting, orchestrating state wide strikes, blockading bank and wealthy business, and controlling transportation through highway stoppages.



Oaxaca, the average person spends only 5.6 years in school, two years less than the national average. The conditions in the rural schools are extremely poor, with a lack of basic infrastructure. Children often come to school hungry, barefoot and are without desks, books, and pencils. For the past 26 years, Section 22 of the National Union of Education Workers has held an annual statewide strike. Some of the demands this year included raises, basic supplies and breakfast for the students. Each year the teachers camp out in the main square of Oaxaca city until an adequate compromise is reached. This year things played out a little differently. At 4:30am on June 14, while teachers and their families were sleeping, 3000 police raided the encampment; a helicopter fired tear gas, and cops beat people and burnt their belongings, leaving over 100 people injured. The teachers resisted with sticks and rocks, reclaiming the square later the same day. And they have remained ever since.

### Construction of the Popular Assembly

Immediately after the government repression, a mega march was held. 400,000 people came to show support for the teachers. A new entity was formed of the 350 organizations that mobilized alongside the teacher strike called the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO). Through hours of meetings, this organization has come to represent not just the voice of the striking teachers but also the voice of all those in the state who face oppression and injustice. According to Florentino, a member of the press committee, "APPO does not set out to impose any decisions, what we set out to do is to integrate all the people so that together we can organize and govern the state." Without leaders and using collective decision making, APPO advances daily with announcements of new actions and strategies. The indigenous people of the region have a long history with this type of organizational structure; many municipalities are still run by the general assemblies under the traditional native customs of "usos y costumbres." These

through fraud, and because as governor he has favored corporate interests and undermined social organizations.

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Women at the Oaxaca City teacher's encampment handing out food

American countries, Fox initiated Plan Puebla Panama, PPP, a neoliberal development mega



commodifying their culture for the tourist industry. One of the projects with huge implications for Oaxaca is the creation of a super highway at Mexico's skinniest point, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in order to move resources more readily across the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This transportation corridor will be lined with sweatshops, without labor or environmental laws. "For all of these objectives, the government of Oaxaca is key to the realization of the project," explained Florentino.

Ulises Ruiz Ortiz is a carbon copy of the most corrupt PRI leadership, which exploits and represses the majority indigenous population. PRI serves the interests of foreign corporations—a perfect match to prepare the region for the implementation of the PPP. Unable to be elected democratically, Ulises stole his position through vote buying, ballot box tampering, and computer fraud. On December 1, 2004, his first day as governor, 40 armed men including PRI municipal leaders with police support occupied the *Noticias*, a

crowd, killing José Jimenez Colmenares, a mechanic and the husband of a teacher. Clearly this was meant to intimidate and create fear. Yet, the movement remains dedicated to not taking up arms. Instead APPO has used the main strategies of creating a situation of ungovernability in Oaxaca, preventing the state government from meeting, orchestrating state wide strikes, blockading bank and wealthy business, and controlling transportation through highway stoppages.

In late August the federal government finally agreed to negotiations with APPO and 28 representatives, half teachers, went to Mexico City. These negotiations are not likely to go anywhere because the federal government refuses to back down and the movement is unwilling to compromise on the resignation of Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. A teacher living in an encampment outside one of the radio stations explained, "Some compañeros want to accept the crumbs that the federal government is offering us and say that maybe we better return to class so that this can end peacefully, as if nothing has happened, but there are a lot of us that say no, because this would imply forgetting the reality that we have been living until now. I insist this type of repression before has not been seen in Oaxaca and if we allow it, believe me when I say, that we would condemn the state of Oaxaca to live like this. Something that would not only affect the teachers but every social group that would want to rise up in the future."

### Power of Community Radio

Radio has played a very significant role in this movement, giving new voice to the voiceless. A radio station created by the



"Long live the struggle of the Oppressed People. In support of Palestinian People."

Immediately after the government repression, a mega march was held. 400,000 people came to show support for the teachers. A new entity was formed of the 350 organizations that mobilized alongside the teacher strike called the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO). Through hours of meetings, this organization has come to represent not just the voice of the striking teachers but also the voice of all those in the state who face oppression and injustice. According to Florentino, a member of the press committee, "APPO does not set out to impose any decisions, what we set out to do is to integrate all the people so that together we can organize and govern the state." Without leaders and using collective decision making, APPO advances daily with announcements of new actions and strategies. The indigenous people of the region have a long history with this type of organizational structure; many municipalities are still run by the general assemblies under the traditional native customs of "usos y costumbres." These assemblies are unaffiliated with political parties and select the municipal presidents who lead by following, accountable to those who select them.

On August 16 and 17, APPO held a forum entitled "Building Democracy and Governability in Oaxaca," with sessions



Women at the Oaxaca City teacher's encampment handing out food

American countries, Fox initiated Plan Puebla Panama, PPP, a neoliberal development mega project praised by the United States. This project, claims one of its main goals is to improve the conditions for the people of the region. In actuality, it is stealing land from indigenous people for infrastructure projects to move resources more quickly into the hands of multinational corporations and

major newspaper for the region which covered the illegitimacy of the election. The newspaper has been operating out of a different location ever since. In the 21 months that Governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz has been in power, 37 people have been killed for political reasons. With this record, his response to the democratic teachers' strike on June 14 comes as no surprise.

#### Government Repression Continues

The repressive tactics against the movement have continued since June 14. Arrest warrants have been issued for at least 80 movement "leaders" including members of the teachers' union. Four have been abducted from the street by unmarked vans; photos of one, a biologist severely beaten, were seen in the local news. The faces of the four political prisoners and a strong call for their freedom can be seen wheat pasted downtown. In response to that repression a march was held

## 6 MORE Activists off to JAIL

During September, a federal court sentenced Kevin Kjonaas, Lauren Gazzola, Jacob Conroy, Joshua Harper, Andy Stepanian and Darius Fulmer — the Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC) 7 defendants — for their participation in the campaign to end the cruelty of Huntington Life Sciences corp. (HLS). The SHAC 7 were sentenced to between one and six years in federal prison and were ordered to collectively pay restitution in the amount of \$1 million and one dollar to HLS for financial damages. The six were the first people tried under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act of 1992 (formerly known as

the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act). Kjonaas got 72 months, Gazzola 52 months, Conroy 48 months, Harper 36 months, Stepanian 36 months and Fulmer 12 months. The SHAC 7 were convicted of conspiracy for advocating against HLS, talking and organizing protests — no violence or property damage was involved.

The SHAC 7 need support: kind letters from you and money for jail. They don't have addresses as of this writing because they haven't reported to jail yet. Check [shac7.com](http://shac7.com) for more support info.

Mexico City. These negotiations are not likely to go anywhere because the federal government refuses to back down and the movement is unwilling to compromise on the resignation of Ulises Ruiz Ortiz. A teacher living in an encampment outside one of the radio stations explained, "Some compañeros want to accept the crumbs that the federal government is offering us and say that maybe we better return to class so that this can end peacefully, as if nothing has happened, but there are a lot of us that say no, because this would imply forgetting the reality that we have been living until now. I insist this type of repression before has not been seen in Oaxaca and if we allow it, believe me when I say, that we would condemn the state of Oaxaca to live like this. Something that would not only affect the teachers but every social group that would want to rise up in the future."

#### Power of Community Radio

Radio has played a very significant role in this movement, giving new voice to the voiceless. A radio station created by the striking teachers with community support was destroyed by the police during the June 14th repression. In response, students from the Autonomous University of Benito Juarez reclaimed their radio station, Radio Universidad, and it became the means of communication for the movement. It too was shot into by government goons and acid was poured on the transmitter, destroying the station. On August 1, a 3000 woman march moved through downtown clanging pots and pans, in the spirit of the march of "cacerolas" in Chile, calling for the resignation of the governor. Leila, a member of the women's coordination committee of APPO explained, "The pots and pans reflect that in Oaxacan homes, there is no food. In a country where there is no justice, no equality, where there is no respect for human rights, these pans are not only empty of food but also of these basic principles."

After the march ended in the main square, a contingent of 500 women decided to take over Channel 9 CORTV, a state wide television station and its two affiliated radio stations. After a few hours the women got the channel back on the air. They began to express many

Continued on page 15

## Back issue Project

We'll send you a random assortment of back issues for the cost of postage: send us \$2 for 2 lbs or \$3 for 4 lbs. Free if you're an infoshop or library. Or drop by our office. Send cash or check to *Slingshot* to: **Slingshot** 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705.

# fraudulent government impotent

reasons for the takeover, to continue the pressure for the governor's resignation, to reclaim the space for the community, to air the news that is not getting covered and to use the mode of communication for organizing and spreading word of the needs of the movement. On August 21st police and government goons attacked the transmitter control room for Channel 9 taking it and two affiliated radio stations off the air. A contingency plan had been created and within hours 11 radio stations were under the control of movement members, many of them women from Channel 9.

Encampments and street blockades were set up to protect the new stations from plain clothed cops and paramilitaries who appear at night and fire into the encampments. One movement member guarding a radio station was killed, bringing the total deaths to eight. This repression has had the opposite effect of its apparent goal to disable the movement through fear, instead, more people can be found sleeping in the encampments outside the radio stations, and the determination of the people seems stronger. On September 3, APPO declared the Governor banned from the state and have essentially taken over control. Florentino explained, "For us the process of destruction of the government and the resignation of Ulises has already ended so that a phase of construction can begin, of creating governability, of showing that we are capable of governing ourselves."

## **In this National Climate the Winds of Oaxaca Reach Far and Wide**

While the people have managed, at least for the time being to reclaim Oaxaca from the hands of the corrupt and repressive leadership, on the national level Felipe Calderon, with the help of the conservative Federal Election Commission (TRIFE), has managed to fraudulently steal the national presidency. On September 6, TRIFE unanimously handed the presidency of Mexico

percent lead out of 41.6 million votes over the left PRD candidate Manuel Lopez Obrador amidst an immense amount of evidence pointing to fraud. Obrador, who some on the left have criticized as a moderate, has campaigned on helping the poor and is refusing to back down, mobilizing millions against the fraud in Mexico City.

In preparation for his final State of the



**Street barricade near Oaxaca City center teachers encampment**

Union address on September 1, President Fox planned to keep the Obrador supporters at bay with 10 foot tall metal barricades, thousands of armed federal police, water cannons and military snipers stationed on rooftops of surrounding buildings. He did not foresee the 155 senators and congress members who felt the election was fraudulent and who prevented the speech from the inside by taking over the podium. Fox ended up giving a televised address. On September 16 at a National Democratic Convention, the

"parallel government" with plans to prevent Calderon from taking office on December 1. Those in power continue to try and carry on with business as usual. According to a White House spokesperson, two days after Calderon was handed the presidency, George Bush expressed the desire to "meet at the earliest mutually convenient opportunity" especially to move forward on Plan Puebla Panama. Try as

people with justice in their hearts and a clear understanding of the roots of their exploitation in their minds can withstand this brutal repression. As Slingshot goes to press there is a period of calm in Oaxaca but repression could come at any moment. The largest defense against this repression is international solidarity, as we have seen throughout the Zapatista uprisings in Chiapas. APPO has recently called for international solidarity and for actions at Mexican consulates throughout the world.

This struggle for human rights and self determination is not new and repression is clearly not confined to Oaxaca. In fact, Oaxaca is simply another front in this global struggle for social justice. And we, in the U.S., in the belly of the beast where it is the easiest to carry on and maintain the status quo, we must stand tall and not let a single casualty in this struggle go unnoticed. Those in power gain strength with each exploitative act and development plan that increases the distance between the very rich and the growing poor. Throughout the Americas things are changing. In South America, the grassroots movements are expanding, electing left leadership. And in the US, the immigrant rights movement is on the move. The potential for solidarity is endless. The former Chiapas Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia, a long time advocate for the poor and indigenous communities, attended an APPO forum. In the closing ceremonies he stated, "it might be that we are standing in two time dimensions, the past and the future. In these days we are living something that we are leaving, and cement is being placed beneath something that doesn't come automatically but is the result of working together, of our construction."

*Rochelle can be reached at [rochelle@riseup.net](mailto:rochelle@riseup.net) and photos from the movement in Oaxaca can be found at [www.globalsoil.wordpress.com](http://www.globalsoil.wordpress.com). For up-to-date info on Oaxaca and Mexico in English and*

they might, they can not continue to ignore what is being created in the poor and indigenous communities in Oaxaca and throughout Mexico.

"The worry that is maybe the biggest of all is the fear of being repressed, the fear of being incarcerated, the fear of being harshly beaten, and of course, the fear of dying because that is what we are exposed to," states a teacher afraid to share his name. Yet the dignity and courage in his eyes, and in the eyes of so many, suggests to me that perhaps

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# USA Infoshop Network Forming

Representatives from North American Infoshops meeting at an infoshop Gathering in Baltimore June 29-30 decided to form an Infoshop Network to help coordinate mutual aid between these autonomous collectives. Infoshop is a term used to refer to activist resource centers that often provide a reading room, access to zine and book libraries, public internet access, and space for meetings, movies, lectures and music shows. Some are run by volunteers and are non-profits while

others are small businesses that contain cafes and bookstores. Each project is an independent collective, however the scores of infoshops in North America and across the globe form a loose network providing a public access point where people can find radicals and radical groups.

According to the Infoshop Network, they seek to set up "a newsletter with updates from infoshops and ideas, get a solidarity network going for infoshops and organizations

in trouble with state repression, get a help hot-line for new and old infoshops looking for advice, a touring line for traveling artists and authors, and possibly even stuff like collective bargaining with distributors."

They have set up an e-mail list, at [infoshopnetwork@lists.resist.ca](mailto:infoshopnetwork@lists.resist.ca). Contact them at [contact@infoshopnetwork.org](mailto:contact@infoshopnetwork.org). They are seeking to contact infoshops and get them to designate a Infoshop Network Liaison, which will do the following things:

1. Bring back information from the larger Network to their collective.
2. Bring information to the larger Network from their collective, like updates, calls for help, etc.
3. Serve as the basic contact person for the Network.
4. Get people in their collectives to be involved in working groups of the Network, especially related to their skills.

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# Rabble Calendar

## October

### October 15

Worldwide anti-McDonald's Day - actions all over

### October 22 • 2 pm

10th Annual national day of protest to stop police brutality, repression and the criminalization of a Generation - around the USA and in San Francisco, a march from Haight and Stanyan to the Fillmore

### October 27 • 6 pm Friday

San Francisco Critical Mass Halloween Bike ride - dress up and ride! at Justin Herman Plaza. [www.critical-mass.org](http://www.critical-mass.org) (the last Friday of each month)

### October 28 • 10-6 pm

5th Annual New Orleans Bookfair. Barrister's Gallery, 1724 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd, [www.hotironpress.com](http://www.hotironpress.com)

## November

### November 9-12

6th National Harm Reduction Conference - Oakland, CA. 212-213-6376 - [harmreduction.org](http://harmreduction.org)

### November 10 • 6 pm

Berkeley Critical Mass bike ride - gather at downtown Berkeley BART station

### November 10 - 12

CounterCorp. anti-corporate film festival San Francisco [www.countercorp.org](http://www.countercorp.org)

### November 10 - 12

Conference to organize global protest to shut-down the G8 Summit scheduled for Heiligendamm, Germany (near Rostock) for July, 2007. [www.heiligendamm-2007.de](http://www.heiligendamm-2007.de)

### November 17-19

Protest the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia - [info@soaw.org](mailto:info@soaw.org) or at 202-234-3440 [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

### November 24

Buy Nothing Day -Celebrate free living and protest mass shopping seasons

### November 24

Sunrise Ceremony on Alcatraz Island. Take the ferry from Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

### November 26 • 4 pm Sunday

Slingshot new volunteer meeting - get involved in this rag - 3124 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley

## December

### December 7

National Day of Action to protest the Green Scare on the anniversary of the FBI's arrest of eco-activists in Oregon. Protests at Federal Buildings in numerous towns around the US — organize your own if no one else has already.

## And so on...

### January 6 • 3 pm Saturday

Article and art submission dues for Slingshot issue #93 at the Long Haul in Berkeley.

### July, 2007

Protest to disrupt the G8 meeting in Heiligendamm, Germany (near Rostock).

## Ongoing...

### Each Tuesday 12:30-1:30

Teach-In And Vigil Against American Torture And The Dictatorial Presidency in front of University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall Law school (Corner of Bancroft & College Ave). Every Tuesday until December 21.

### Each and every minute

Help protect the Free Box Bike Cart! If you're in the Bay Area and could help guard the free box at People's Park, leave a note in the mailbox at 3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley CA 94705 or email [freeboxbikecart@yahoo.com](mailto:freeboxbikecart@yahoo.com).

